

*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  
September 24, 2024 - Selden***

Meeting Called to order by President Vincent Ammirati at 8pm.

Salute to the flag led by Sgt. At Arms William Mullane

Moment of Silence for departed members followed by the prayer by Rev. Fleischman.

Chief Bartnick welcomed us to Selden. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli presented a certificate of thanks to the Chief.

Motion to accept the minutes from July by Frank Guarino, seconded by Jeff Bailes, all in favor, motion carried.

**Introduction of Guests & Past Association Presidents by Don Bracciodieta**

**Past Presidents** in attendance were Robert McConville, William Murray, Eugene Perry, Jerry Owenburg, Frank Guarino, Robert Sutton

Guest in Attendance were:

Stan Roberts – Islip Town Volliers

Juan Batta – President of Southern New York

Doug Miller – Vice President LIAFBA

Don Holupka – President LIAFBA

Sscott Davonski – Executive Director of FRES

Scott Theobold – Vice President – Suffolk Districts

Bob McConville – President – Suffolk Districts

Gary Scharum – VEEB President – Suffolk Fire Academy

Mary Dolan – Vice President – of Suffolk Educators

Joel Heilbrunn – President of Town of Babylon Vol.

Marybeth Asbell – Vice President Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary

Lori Zatorski - Jr. Past President Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary

**Treasurer's report.** Bob McConville read total of all accounts. Motion by Gary Stecker to accept the treasurer's report as read, seconded by Russell Curley, all in favor.

**Bills/Correspondence** – Jean Christensen

There were no bills.

Received

- Volunteer Fire Police Association of the State of New York 50/50 raffle - \$5.00 each
- Thank you from Edward Tase Jr.

**Report of Presidents:**

**President Vincent Ammirati**

- SCVFA meeting at the Smithtown FD River July 23,2024
- Long Island Benevolent Association Meeting at the Coram FD July 26,2024
- **\*\*\*\*Benevolent lawsuit\*\*\*\***
- FASNY Home Trustee teams meeting July 29, 2024
- Chief ANTHONY V. LAFERRERA celebration at the North Babylon Fire Company August 3,2024
- FASNY convention Niagara Falls NY August 5,2024 to August 12,2024
- Suffolk County District Association Meeting August 15,2024 Mattituck FD
- FASNY President get together August 16,2024
- East Moriches FD Summer Bash August 16,2024
- NY State tournament Central Islip FD August 17,2024
- NY State Parade Central Islip FD August 18,2024
- FASNY Home to visit with the members Hudson NY August 23,2024
- Suffolk County Juniors picnic Yaphank FD August 25,2024
- SCVFA executive board meeting at the Patchogue FD August 27,2024
- FASNY Trustee teams meeting August 28,2024
- FASNY Youth Weekend at the Suffolk County Fire Academy August 30,2024
- Suffolk County Districts summer picnic at the Smithtown River Property September 8,2024
- Suffolk County's 9-11 Memorial service at the H. Lee Dennison building September 11,2024
- 9-11 memorial service September 11,2024 Selden FD
- Suffolk County Chiefs Meeting Mattituck Fire Department September 12,2024
- Long Island Day at the FASNY home Hudson NY September 15,2024
- Brookhaven Chiefs meeting at the Eastport FD September 20,2024
- Suffolk County Junior meeting at the Huntington Manor FD September 22,2024

**Report of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Giovanni Chiarelli**

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers for my dad's passing last month.

-Please pick up shirts previously ordered!

**August 2024**

- 1 Smithtown Chiefs
- 7 – 10 FASNY
- 27 SCVFA
- 30 SCVJA (Juniors)

**September 2024**

- 5 Smithtown Chiefs
- 11 911 Ceremony
- 24 SCVFA



### **Report of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dan Brooks –**

- July 28 – Honorary Chief Certificate – Bayport
- July 31 – FASNY Legislative Committee • August 3 – NYSAFC Party for Anthony LaFerrera
- August 7-11 – FASNY Convention
- August 18 – Amagansett BBQ
- August 25 – SCVJFA BBQ at Yaphank • August 27 – SCVFA Board Meeting at Patchogue
- September 13 – Suffolk County Fire Chief's Council at Mattituck
- September 14 – Southampton FD Muster
- September 15 – Long Island Day at the Firefighters Home
- September 17 – FASNY Legislative Committee
- September 20 – Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council
- September 22 – SCVJFA First General Meeting at Huntington Manor

### **Report of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Don Bracciodieta**

- August 1, 2024, Smithtown, Chiefs, St. James FD
- August 3, 2024, N. Babylon for New York State Chiefs
- August 8 through the 11th FASNY convention in Niagara Falls
- September 5, 2024, lithium battery task force meeting Selden FD
- September 6, 2024, Suffolk County (Fire Educators) meeting
- September 14, 2024, Islip town Museum for Boy Scout merit badge
- September 15, 2024, Long Island Day at the home
- September 16, 2024, Burn Center meeting at Stonybrook Hospital
- September 18, 2024, Islip Town membership meeting great river FD
- September 22, 2024, Suffolk County juniors meeting Huntington Manor FD

### **Annual Dinner** – Robert Sutton reported

Please save the date of Saturday October 19, 2024, for our annual dinner and Firefighter of the Year presentation. The event will once again be held at the Coram Fire Department, and the tickets are \$75.00 each.

To date we have 101 paid tickets for the dinner. Please go back to your Fire Departments and other organizations that you belong to get commitments and monies for tickets. The Applications are here tonight and are also available on our website. If you have any questions at all, please contact me.

### **By-Laws** – No Report

### **Candidate Campaign** – In a Lull right now.

### **FASNY** – President of FASNY Gene Perry gave the following report

- Paul Riebin was appointed as Director
- Gene had the Albany Strategic Advisors report with Summary of FASNY Legislative and Fiscal Priority Successes.
- I want to thank everyone for their support as begin my tenure as the 82nd President of FASNY. I'm humbled in your confidence in me and will continue to advocate for NYS's Volunteer Fire Service at the Legislative Conference, the Issues of United Concern and for Federal Legislation which includes the OSHA rule. Paul Riebin has been appointed FASNY Director by the BOD. He will have to run for the unexpired term of Ken Holmes who

was elected 2nd Vice President.

- FASNY has been awarded a new SAFER grant (FY 2023) in the amount of \$1.9 million. The award will be used to fund FASNY's recruitment and Retention activities, including our tuition reimbursement program.
- FASNY General Counsel Tim Hannigan will be testifying on the OSHA Emergency Response Rule on our behalf. Tim has requested 20 minutes and had to send his testimony along with documentation to be approved to speak for longer than the 5-minute allotted time. We don't know yet what date FASNY will be scheduled to testify. We've been notified that over 500 people have signed up to testify and the testimony will begin November 12 th and will last between 2-4 weeks, exclusive of the week of Thanksgiving. Our testimony will be based on FASNY's Economic Impact Study as well as Osha's release that are considering exempting the Volunteer Fire Service from this rule.
- On August 30th and 31st FASNY conducted a Youth Day in conjunction with the Suffolk County Fire Academy. Approximately 80 youths participated in a lecture on Friday night and a Hands-on on Saturday. From all indications the program was a great success. I'd like to thank Chief Scott Davonski, Deputy Chief Dan Scilian and all the instructors at the Academy for their time and effort. Next year's Youth Day is scheduled for August 22nd and 23rd, 2025.
- I'm also pleased to announce that the Governor has signed legislation supported by FASNY to allow Medicaid reimbursement for Treatment in place and Transport to an Alternate Destination (TIP & TAD). Another piece of legislation that was signed is authorizing ground ambulances and advanced life support first response services to store and distribute blood and initiate and administer blood transfusions which matches authorizations provided to air ambulances.
- The NYS Fallen Firefighter Memorial was held Tuesday, October 8 th at the Empire State Plaza. The names of 32 firefighters were added to the Memorial Wall including FF George P. Matthias from the Greenport Fire Department, who passed away in the line of duty on August 20, 1972. I had the privilege to place the Memorial Wreath along with Sam Fresina, the President of the NYS Professional Firefighters Association.
- The FASNY Legislative Conference is November 1- 3 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY. All legislative proposals should be submitted to the Southern NY Legislative Committee Chairman Michael DeVittorio for consideration.

**Home Trustees** –Bob Sutton reported the following:

- The current census is eighty-two members. One Member passed away on September 17th.
- There are currently 15 applications that are in various stages of completion.
- On October 5, 2024, there will be an Open House at the Home and FASNY Museum.
- There are currently 15 applications that are in various stages of completion.
- The Members enjoyed Long Island Day on Sunday, September 15th.
- The Home received \$3,400 in donations.
- The annual Lake George Boat Trip was held on Tuesday, September 17th . A total of 22 Members attended this year's event.



### **Annual Memorial Service**

The Next memorial Service will be held on Sunday May 4, 2025. Tentatively we have the Patchogue interested in hosting; more information will follow concerning this

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

Was the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Long Island Day at the Home. It was a beautiful day. Thank you to Steve Badala from West Islip Fire Dept who came up and played music for the members. Please plan to come up next year. Members are selling challenge coins - \$10 each.

### **Firefighter Cancer Support Network** – Jerry Owenburg/Bob Sutton

If you haven't gotten tested, please get it done. Jerry stated if you need to talk, come speak to him. It is so important to get your testing done on time.

### **Firefighter of the Year** – John Manzi –

Will be October 19<sup>th</sup> and it is two members from Riverhead – please be sure to get your tickets, there are forms on the tables.

### **Headquarters** – William Mullane

No Report

### **Youth in the Fire Service – Keith Vella**

Had a great youth day at the Fire Academy. Thank you to Scott, Rudy and Gene for helping to get the kids on the Academy grounds. Next year will be back at the Academy. Youth Day will be here for convention and there will be other dates around the state and on Long Island. Ex-Chief Christine Manzi gave lecture.

### **Suffolk Jrs.** – Mary Catherine Dolan gave the following report

- Thank you to the Associations for all the support that was given to help start the Juniors.
- Thank you to Bob Sutton for the Ion Battery Lecture.
- They have appointed the Charter Executive Board, and they will remain in office until December 2025.
- We have a total of 23 Fire & EMS departments as of right now.
- The BBQ and first full meeting was a great success and the BOD are working hard to keep the Juniors growing.
- Their next meeting is in November – possibly in Centereach.
- They are looking forward to going to the Fire/EMS show.
- Please relay a thank you to Jerry from Nassau.

### **John A. Masem Sr. Scholarship** – Keith Vella

- The deadline is June 2025.
- Is available for College or Vocational School
- Members of this Association who are going back to school can now apply as well as High School Seniors.

### **Legislative** – Jerry Owenburg/Dan Brooks

#### **Suffolk - Jerry**

- Approved the appointment of Michael Presta as an alternate member of the Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Service Commission.
- Accepted Donation of Fire Academy Field sign in booths from the Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo Memorial Foundation to the County of Suffolk.

- Today they confirmed the appointment of Rudy Sunderman as Commissioner of the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services.

#### FASNY – Dan

- Looking at Legislative weekend being moved since it is so close to Election Day.
- They do scorecard every year – looking to align to Legislative Calendar.
- The Golden Trumpet Award winner is Senator Scofield from Rockland County.

#### Resolutions – Gene Perry

- Resolution #1 – BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere thanks to the Selden FD for Hosting tonight's meeting. Motion to accept by Bob Sutton, seconded by John Fleischman, motion carried.
- Resolution #2 – BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere thanks to Patchogue FD for Hosting our August Executive Board meeting. Motion by Frank Guarino, seconded by Bill Mullane, motion carried.
- Resolution #3 – BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association congratulate the Lindenhurst Jr. Snails Drill team for winning the New York State Junior Drill Team Championship. Motion to accept by James Redmond, seconded by Jonathan Barnett, motion carried.
- Resolution #4 – BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association congratulate the Central Islip Hoboes Drill Team for winning the New York State Drill Team Championship. Motion to accept by Bob Sutton, seconded by Bill Russell Curley, motion carried.

#### Radio Committee – No Report

#### FRES Commission – Anthony Sullo/Bob McConville

Today Rudy Sunderman was appointed Commissioner of FRES. Congratulations again Rudy!

#### Sickness –

A probationary firefighter from West Babylon, Austin Trezzo was seriously injured in a car accident. Austin is serious but in stable condition. Please keep all of the kids in the car in your prayers.

#### Steering – Jerry Owenburg/Gene Perry

Had brief meeting tonight. Will come back with recommendations for SNY and FASNY at a later date.

#### SCVFA Parade & Drill – Joel Heilbrun

- Season is over
- Parade Officials are not disbanding but working on issues during the off season
- There are no sanctioned parades at this time.
- Rule changes can be submitted.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> is the County Award Dinner at Lindenhurst \$65.00 per person
- October 26<sup>th</sup> is the State Awards Dinner at Huntington Hilton - \$75 per person.

#### Training & Education – Giovanni Chiarelli –

Progress – looking to do seminar in January 2025



**William Reilly Journal** – Giovanni Chiarelli

- Ads are coming in – we are up to 41 ads right now.
- Cheech read list of those that took ad in past but have not heard from yet. Cheech will try to reach out to them.
- Ads are        quarter page \$50.00                      half page \$75                      Full page \$100

**Publicity & Public relations & Website** – Dan Brooks / Roger Putnam

- Keeping up with Facebook page – if you have something to promote, please send to Dan.
- Roger is doing a great job on the website.

**Ways & Means** – William Mullane – collected \$180 – winner to get \$90.

**Lithium Ion Battery** - Bob Sutton/Bob McConville

The Lithium-Ion Battery Task Force Will met on October 17, at Selden. Things had slowed down over the summer but we anticipate a very bust fall. If anyone knows of a civic group, local library or any other group that would be interested in a presentation, Please let us know the particulars.

The following presentations are scheduled

October 8, 2024 – Selden Library

October 9, 2024 – East Northport or Northport Library – Location TBD

Thank you to Chief Dublonsky for training of departments to fight Lithium-Ion Battery fires.  
This is definitely a joint venture.

**Fire Prevention** – Don Bracciodieta

- Next meeting is November 1<sup>st</sup> – location to be determined. Dinner 7pm – meeting to follow.
- This year NFPA fire prevention announcement theme is Smoke Alarms Make them work for you!
- Fire Prevention is right around the corner, if anybody needs anything from educators for their fire prevention, day, please let us know.
- For fire prevention, if you have not done it already, put an education display for lithium batteries.
- September is the National Suicide Awareness Month and unfortunately, we are in emergency services and are not immune to this threat.
- Everyone have a great fire prevention and stay safe.
- 

Upcoming dates – October 4 – Medford Fire Department open house BURN Center more than welcome to come.  
October 23 – 9:30 till 2pm Stony Brook University.

**Credentials** – Tom Prendergast – Sending dues notices out end of November.  
\$15 Individual and \$30 organization/dept/company

**Membership** – Tom Prendergast – No report

**EMS/REMSCO** – Tom Prendergast -

- Suffolk EMS has two new employees on Staff – Clayron DeCostend, Paramedic from Selden and James MacDonell ER Nurst St. Charles, Paramedic.
  - EMT Refresher at the Islip Building over the Summer.
  - Several EMT classes going on or scheduled for the rest of the year.
  - EMT – CC Bridge to Paramedic continue through January 2026
    - CFR 35 (+2)
    - EMT 5363 (+470)
    - CC 139 (-10)
    - Paramedic 1000 (+103)
- Total 6624
- CPR awards ceremony Coram October 19<sup>th</sup> during the day.
  - EMS Conference is Oct 17-20, 2024, in Rochester – Vital Signs.
  - I-Gel Pilot program – has to do with opening airway

John Manzi sated that State Districts are in favor of extending the CC program.

Gene Perry stated he read about CC program FASNY is not getting involved.

Want to extend CC program 2027 – Suffolk asked REMSCO to re-examine and they only had two votes to do it.

Jerry Owenburg asked what Suffolk EMS Says. Rudy Sunderman asked what Suffolk REMSCo says.

Suffolk REMSCo wants to continue.

Motion by Jerry Owenburg to send a letter of support for it to continue seconded by Bill Mullane. Letter to go to NYS Semsco.

Vinny to call joint council meeting to find out what they feel and what they want to do. Gene Perry to also attend.

**Suffolk County Chiefs** – Absent

**Suffolk County Association of Fire Districts** – Scott Thebold reported

- Attended Legislative meeting today – great day. Tudy will do a great job!
- Patrick J. Walsh 51-year member and Ex-Chief passed – LODD – Firematic is Saturday 1-3
- Keep the kids from West Babylon in your prayers.
- Next meeting is November 21<sup>st</sup> in Copiague.
- Sympathy card to be sent to East Farmingdale.

**Suffolk County FRES - Rudy Sunderman**

- Thank you to those who attended today.
- Radio Survey – please complete so that they have needed data.
- Thank you to Fire Depts and EMS during the recent flooding event. There were 1300 calls in 24 hours. Waiting on major disaster assistance. In storm recovery mode.
- Working with the Board of Elections on security at all polling sites. FRES, PD and Sheriffs are working together for safety for workers and polling sites. Command post will be used.
- Suffolk County EMS will be assigned to SC Fire, Rescue starting in January 2025. Looking forward to the merge.
- Looking to hire 3-4 more dispatchers, a Fire Marshall and a Sr. Office Assistant.



**Suffolk County VEEB Board** – Gary Schaum was present and asked Scott Devonski to give the report. Gary Schaum stated Rudy is a big plus for the Fire Academy – he has a lot of fire background. Gary thanked Rudy for working with the Academy.

- Please make sure that any student signing up for Firefighter 1 registers for the correct course. We have had incidents of students mistakenly signing up for Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations (BEFO) and then requesting to be switched over to Firefighter 1. Unfortunately, we are unable to change student registrations due to the required student/instructor ratios.
- Based on the success of the 2024 program, the Suffolk County Fire Academy (SCFA) will be offering a virtual (all online) Firefighter 1 program beginning January 8, 2025. The class was designed for college students, East End and Fire Island communities. Registration for the course will be open November 8, 2024, on our open enrollment page.
- The Medal of Valor Awards Presentation will be 7pm on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at Central Islip FD.
- National Certification Exams (Pro-Board) to be held at the SCFA. Firefighter 1 (October 26) and Firefighter 2 (September 7). Visit our website or social media pages for further information.
- ICS 300 courses scheduled at Southold FD (daytime) and the SCFA (weekend). Visit <https://1msportal-dhses.ny.gov/AcadisViewer/Registration/ListOfAvailableTraining> for more information to register.
- Save the Date: Women in the Fire Service annual training event will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2024. More information to follow.
- 2025 Field Applications
- FASNY youth had 15 departments with 68 students.
- VEEB opening

Gene Perry also thanked Rudy and Scott for getting the kids at the Academy.

**Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary** – Vice President Marybeth Asbell gave the following report

- Next meeting is October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Islip Museum
- We are currently running a Gift card raffle – to be drawn in December.
- Long Island Day was great – thank you.
- Suffolk Ladies will be at the dinner on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**NYS Fire Police – Frank Guarino**

- Thank you for putting field day together.
- Zoom tomorrow
- Meeting October 18-19 in Peru
- Tom With seminar in Caledonia February 28 – March 1
- The Convention is May 8, 9, 10
- Friday night, September 27<sup>th</sup> – Region 7 meeting with Chris from Smithtown at the River Property.

**Suffolk County Firefighters Burn Center**

- The meeting was Monday night.
- Having a Fundraiser at McGuire's – cost is \$20 pp
- Steve Sandavol – Gel is working well, trying to get a spray now.
- Dr. Simon – working on spray to put on live tree to make it fireproof.

### **Suffolk County Safety Officer's -**

- Frank Bailes reported that January 13<sup>th</sup> is the National Conference in Florida.
- Thursday there is a meeting for Suffolk Safety Officers at 8pm in Dee Park.
- NYS Meeting & zoom is October 13<sup>th</sup>

### **Southern NY VFA – Juan Batta**

- Thank you for inviting me to meeting.
- Congratulations to Gene Perry, President of FASNY
- Next meeting is October 5<sup>th</sup> Stony Point.
- Thank you for supporting Octaviano for Director of FASNY
- Next legislative meeting is January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday in Albertson

### **Nassau County - President Kevin McElynn**

- Muster is this Saturday – 10am. There are 35 fire apparatus to be judged. Vendor tables, free admission to museum plus 10 more just displayed.
- Next meeting is October 16 in Bethpage.

### **Long Island Benevolent – Don Holupka.**

- Next meeting is October 25<sup>th</sup> in Huntington Manor
- Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> is 2% Forum in East Farmingdale.
- Don had question on money received by FASNY Firefighters Home for FASNY President Gene Perry. Don stated he had asked Past President Tase with no response. Don stated he was disappointed in the wall of silence. Gene offered to speak to him after the meeting and stated the Home got their money. Gene will call FASNY attorney and ask if he can give Don the information he is looking for.

### **North Fork VFA –Artie Brewer reported**

- Next meeting is October 23<sup>rd</sup> –6:45pm in East Marion.

### **Babylon Town VFA – Joel Heilbrunn**

- November 18 Babylon Village is the next meeting.

### **Islip Town VFA – Stan Roberts**

- Next meeting is November 16 in Hauppauge. Dinner 7pm – meeting to follow
- They are now on Facebook

### **South Shore – No report**

### **Old Business – None**

### **New Business –**

- Tom Kriklava stated that Suffolk Chiefs monitors the LODD Memorial at the Academy. Please be sure to notify them of LODD as volunteer firefighter so that the members are recognized. The Chief of Department must be the one to notify them.
- Bob Sutton made a motion to purchase 20 tickets to the Stony Brook Burn Center fundraiser, seconded by Jerry Owenburg, motion carried.



- Frank Guarino made a motion to purchase \$100 in Fire Police 50/50 tickets seconded by Don Gleason, motion carried.
- Bob Chuchillo spoke that he has ideas on recruitment and retention and would like Suffolk Vollies to start a committee. Please let President Vinny know if you are interested on working on this committee with Bob C.

**Good and Welfare –**

- Jerry Owenburg reported that he saw Peter on Saturday and he is doing well. If you have the time please go visit Peter – he would love visitors. Bob McConville stated that Ann LaFountain is in the Home as well.
- Warren Holtj Fire EMS Metro Show coming next year.
- Islip Museum cancelled their muster/chili cook off.

**Dark Horse** – Winner was Don Holupka

**Next membership meeting is January 28, 2025, in West Babylon**

**Next Executive Board meeting is October 22, 2024, in West Sayville**

**President Vinny Ammirati wished all a Happy, Safe holiday season and a Happy New Year.  
Closing Prayer by Rev. Fleishman.**

Motion to adjourn by Keith Vellia to adjourn seconded by Bob Chuchillo.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jean Christensen  
Secretary