



The Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.

Organized 1886



"Proud Hosts of the 2010 FASNY Convention"

**Minutes – Meeting of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association
May 25, 2021, from East Farmingdale Fire House**

Meeting Called to order by President Frank Guarino at 8pm
Salute to the flag led by President Frank Guarino
Prayer by Chaplain John Fleischman

Chief Duane Welliver welcomed us to East Farmingdale. 1st Vice President Bob Sutton presented Chief Welliver with a certificate of appreciation.

William Mullane made a motion to accept the January minutes from the March meeting minutes seconded by John Masem, all in favor.

3rd Vice President Vinny Ammirati read the following guests who were in attendance: Past President Robert McConville, Past President William Murray, Past President/VP Trustee Firemen's Home Peter Cincotta, Past President/ President of Trustees at FASNY Firemen's Home Jerry Owenburg, SNYVFA 2nd VP Frank Guarino, South Shore Vollies Anthony Sullo, President Tom Kriklava from Suffolk County Fire Chief's Association, Don Gleason - Suffolk County Emerald Society, Suffolk County Ladies President Marybeth Asbell and Vice President Lori Zatorski, Suffolk County Fire Safety Educations Don Bracciadita and Mary Dolan, NYS Fire Police Association Past President Frank Guarino, NYS Chaplain's Association John Fleischmann, Brookhaven Town Chief's Association John Masem, Town of Babylon Lovetta Nixon and Peter Colli, Town of Babylon Fire Police John Welter, NY Safety Officer Jeff Bailes, Bob Davidson from Brookhaven Safety, LAFASNY Past Presidents Ann LaFountain and Jean Christensen.

Treasurer's Report by Bob McConville read the balance of the accounts as follows:

General Fund	\$5273.52
Headquarters Fund	\$ 585.39
Dinner Fund	\$3093.28
Scholarship Fund	\$3968.54
Ways & Means	\$2328.27
Campaign Fund	\$4136.96
FASNY Ways & Means Fund	\$4495.79
FASNY Wildfire	\$2262.10
FASNY Convention Fund	\$1952.40
FASNY Presidents Fund	\$ 373.74
FASNY Savings	\$323949

Total in all FASNY Accounts.....\$31,699.48

Paid Bill for \$66.00 for postage

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Gary Stecker seconded by Jeff Bailes, all in favor.

Communications:

- Email from Patrick Carey advising that Ex-Captain Creag Richtor 50-year member of Greenport FD answered his last alarm.
- FASNY Convention Information.

President Reports:

3rd Vice President Vinny Ammirati–

January SCVFA membership zoom meeting.

February SCVFA Executive Board Meeting at Blue Point FD.

February Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary zoom Meeting.

March SCVFA membership meeting at Selden FD.

April Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary zoom Meeting.

April SCVFA Executive Board Meeting at Westhampton Beach FD

Suffolk County VOLLIES memorial service help with FB live and zoom.

May Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary zoom Meeting.

Babylon Volunteer Fireman's Association meeting at East Farmingdale FD

Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council at Selden FD work in the kitchen Sig 8

Southern New York Volunteer fireman's association zoom executive board meeting.

Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association legislative zoom conference May 22, 2021

FASNY Legislative Zoom meetings

2nd Vice President Peter Cincotta –

- Legislative meeting
- Suffolk VOLLIES
- Suffolk Ladies
- Brookhaven Fire Chiefs
- Memorial Service – Great job to 1st Vice President Bob Sutton and Sayville FD
- Many Firemen's Home meetings
- Memorial Service at the Firemen's Home

1st Vice President Bob Sutton –

So good to see everybody again safe, healthy, live and in person. For the months of January, February, March, April & May, 2021, I attended the following meetings:

- January 26, 2021 - SCVFA membership meeting via ZOOM.
- February 23, 2021 - SCVFA Executive Board Meeting at Blue Point FD.
- March 4, 2021 – Smithtown Fire Chiefs Council at Nissequogue Fire Department.
- March 10, 2021 – Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary Meeting via ZOOM.
- March 12, 2021 – Fire Chiefs Council of Suffolk County at East Farmingdale FD.
- March 15, 2021 – Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter's Burn Center Fund via Zoom.
- March 17, 2021 – Babylon Town Fire Chiefs Council at Lindenhurst FD.
- March 23, 2021 – SCVFA membership meeting via ZOOM, done at Selden FD.
- April 14, 2021 - Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary Meeting via ZOOM.
- April 16, 2021 – Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council at Shirley Ambulance.
- April 27, 2021 – SCVFA Executive Board Meeting at Westhampton Beach FD.
- May 12, 2021 - Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary Meeting via ZOOM.
- May 15, 2021 - Fire Chiefs Council of Suffolk County at Brookhaven FD.
- May 17, 2021 – Town of Babylon Volunteer Fireman's Association at East Farmingdale FD.

- May 21, 2021 - Brookhaven Town Fire Chiefs Council at Selden FD.
- May 20, 2021 – Participated in Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone’s press conference concerning the ‘Fair Play’ cost recovery for fire department ambulance service (A.534), at the Dix Hills FD.
- May 20 – Suffolk County Fire District Officers Association held at Brentwood FD.
- May 24, 2021 - Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter’s Burn Center Fund via Zoom. Annual Memorial Service
- I want to thank everybody who attended our annual Memorial Service on May 2. It was well attended; the weather cooperated and was well received. Once again, thank you to the Sayville Fire Department and the Sayville Fire District for hosting this event and for their generosity and cooperation.
- Our next Memorial Service is scheduled for Sunday May 1, 2022. A host will be needed for this event, please reach out to your home Department to see if they would be receptive to hosting this event.

It is not too early to begin scheduling our meeting dates for 2022. If any Department is interested in hosting either a membership meeting or Executive Board meeting for 2022, please contact our Secretary Jean Christensen. With the year almost half over, it is good to be active and attend as many meetings as possible. There is good information at all these meetings, and a learning experience at each one. For our future meetings, please reach out to your fellow Fire Department members and encourage them to join our Association, attend or meetings and be an active participant in it. We are always interested in having any informative, interesting, and brief topics or presentations that can be held prior to our membership meetings. If any member has a topic/subject that they would like to have presented, or if you or someone that you know is interested in presented, please let us know. Thank you and stay safe!

President Frank Guarino –

- Suffolk County Ladies Zoom meetings
- Brookhaven Town Fire Police
- FASNY Directors meetings
- Legislative meeting
- I have completed four years as President of NYS Fire Police Association

Steering Committee – Bob McConville

SNY Elections are June 12th in Hicksville – meeting will be outside. Running from Suffolk are – Frank Guarino for 2nd Vice President, Bob McConville for Financial Secretary, Peter Cincotta, Jerry Owenburg and Gene Perry for Director. Gene is replacing Paul Van Arts Dalen and Vinny for Director at Large.

Sickness –

Virginia McConville is recuperating from Surgery – she came home on Thursday. Jackie Miller Ex-Chief from Wyandanch is ill.

FASNY - Second Vice President Eugene Perry

President Guarino read the report that Gene sent to him, as he is on vacation.

- FASNY will be co-sponsoring an eight-hour class on Responding to Propane Emergencies. This will be a four-hour classroom session followed by a four-hour practical including a live burn scenario using a propane truck. The class is being coordinated with the East Marion FD. More details are to follow...
- The FASNY Convention is scheduled for August 5-7 at the Sonesta White Plains Downtown Hotel, 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains. Single and Double rooms are \$129 per night. Convention Registration forms and link to the Hotel with the Booking Code are on the FASNY website under the Events Tab.
- There will be a Golf Outing on Tuesday, August 3rd at the Spring Lake Golf Course in Yonkers, NY - \$100 per golfer. Registration & Lunch at 1130am, Shotgun Start at 1:00pm, Buffet Dinner at 5:30pm and Awards & Prizes at 6:00pm. You must Pre-Register by July 1st, Outing limited to 36 Foursomes.

- FASNY is working on a series of 5K Runs/Walks across the State. The first is scheduled for Sunday, June 20th in Hudson. There will be one in Suffolk County on Saturday, October 25th at the Brookhaven Town Firemen's Park in Ridge. More details to follow.

Frank stated he is running for five-year term as Director and has his petition that he needs signatures to run. Frank thanked Bob McConville and Gene Perry for getting him interested in FASNY.

Home Trustee –

They have no Covid – this is a tribute to the wonderful staff that they have. If the staff members had two jobs when COVID hit they had to pick one, they could not work both jobs. They shut the Home down early, which helped. If staff was sick, they paid them to stay home for 14 days. There are 72 Brothers and Sisters at the Home at this time. They had Memorial Service which was streamed on Facebook and live streamed to the multi-Purpose building and to each member's room. They had Dutchess County Day with 20 people – they cooked for the members and live streamed so that they could talk to them. They had their first hug the beginning of May, which was wonderful. They are taking donations of train stuff, clothing, t-shirts again. The Administrator Keith is now with the Home for one year and doing a great job. The staff has done a tremendous job and they gave them a bonus and a Covid day off that they could take whenever they wanted to. There are three people from Suffolk residing at the Home. You can visit but you need to call to set up the visit – have a rapid test even if you are vaccinated. You can take them out to eat but if you keep them out of home overnight, they must return to a 14-day quarantine. If you know of anyone that can benefit from living in the home, there are applications on the website, or you can contact the Firemen's Home or Jerry or Peter. If you are looking at the Home as an option Jerry encourages you to visit your local nursing home as well – ask questions. If you are unsure of what questions to ask, contact Jerry or Peter and they will give you a list of questions you should ask both your local nursing home and the Firemen's Home.

Peter stated that they are following CDC guidelines, NYS Dept of Health, Columbia County and Home Administrators recommendations, they are looking at safety. This is all being done to protect yourself, the resident, and the staff, please understand the rules and cooperate with the Firemen's Home. The joint Butterfly Garden Project of Past FASNY President Steven Klein and Past LAFASNY President Jean Christensen has been started.

Southern New York VFA –.

Saturday, they did Zoom legislative meeting. June 12 is their Convention in person in Hicksville at the Pavilion. Waiting on start time. All are required to wear a mask.

Suffolk County Chiefs –President Tom Kriklava reported the following.

- Tom and Frank communicate constantly and have been handling issues. They councils stay in touch.
- Chiefs Convention is July 14, 2021, to July 17, 2021.
- State Hospitality room – working with Nassau – Bob Klosphfy from Nassau is going in as President.
- Looking for Room Sponsors for Hospitality room – Tony LaFerrara is taking checks.
- Scholarship deadline is extended to May 31 – for any Graduating HS Student or Firefighter/EMS continuing their education. If you are unsure if you qualify, complete the Application.
- They need everyone's help - Scholarship Seminar March 25, 2022, Aircraft Emergencies by Ex-Chief Joe Marino of Islip experienced as a Marine Chief Port Authority and MacArthur Airport Crash Rescue.
- Golf Outing is September 27 Smithtown Landing.
- Installation Brunch is November 14 – where they will honor Chief of the year.
- Suffolk Chiefs is in favor of the EMS Recovery Bill – moved out of the committee today.

- Health – Welfare fund – if you have a Chief or Ex-Chief going through financial difficulties let them know. This is to be done through your 30 of the Department.
- They have a Chaplain Unit – if you are having a funeral and your chaplain is not available, they will help you out – just reach out to them. They also issue a Bible to the Chief/Ex-Chief's family, and they have a ceremonial unit that will take care of everything for you if you need assistance.
- They have a Facebook and Website – any department can advertise on, but you cannot have any negativity and no commercial advertising.
- Next meeting is July 9th in Riverhead, they are asking FRES to bring new resources.

Suffolk County Ladies – President Marybeth Asbell

- Thank you to President Frank for installing the ladies on Zoom.
- Great job on Memorial Service
- Hoping for an in-person meeting in August
- On going fundraisers are Lottery Scratch-off being drawn during June meeting and the 100 Club.

Commissioner Jordan – no report

Brookhaven Chiefs

- June 18th is meeting.
- September 12 is Brunch at Majestic Gardens
- September 26th is their Memorial Service.

Father Halpin Memorial Service – 1st Vice President Bob Sutton
Nothing further to report at this time.

SCVFA Parade and Drill –

Suffolk County Parade has been cancelled.

June 5th is the first tournament of the season in Lindenhurst with an unsanctioned parade.

Long Island Day at the Home – Jerry Owenburg / Peter Cincotta

Holding off another year, will not be held. Last year dinner was paid for the members and staff on the day that would have been Long Island Day. The cost was split with Suffolk Chiefs and Districts. This will be on September 20th and they will again be providing dinner for them. On September 19th a few of them will go up with flowers and do service and they will dedicate Ed's tree as well that day.

FRES – Bob McConville reported

- Met a month ago and toured the facility – has certainly changed, they have done some great things.
- Colonie training built a residential cul de sac, Bob brought this up to the guy in charge of the instructors that perhaps we could do this.
- They meet tomorrow night – Anthony will be attending as well as Tom Kriklava.
- Bob encourages a tour of the training facility.

VEEB Board – Gary Schaum – was absent due to work but dropped report off to Secretary Jean Christensen

- The Fire Academy added Firefighter 1, Fire Office 1 and Fire Police classes to schedule. (Check website for dates). This will help with getting more Firefighters trained due to COVID>
- We have started to move back to Face – to – Face classes as COVID restrictions have started to lighten up. Class size has been increased following CDC Guidelines. **ALL FIELD DRILLS HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL CLASS SIZE.**
- LIRR Cars have started to be repaired and class should be ready to go in 2022.

- The Fire Academy is starting a class for Training Officers. It will be delivered by the Director and Deputy Director; this class is for the members who are responsible for training in their department. This class will run in every township in the county. (Dates TBD).
- Living fire training has been added to Firefighter I classes.
- Ed Johnston is the New Fire Academy Director.
- Rudy Sunderman is the New Fire Academy Deputy Director.

Radios – Anthony Sullo – reported the T-Band bill was passed.

Fire Police – Frank Guarino – No report

Legislation – Vinny Ammariti reported

The Assembly has moved the EMS billing legislation out of committee and the bill has now been referred to the Ways and Means Committee. We still have our work cut out for us but if the bill moves out of Ways and Means it will likely be taken up on the floor. As you know the bill has already passed the Senate.

The movement of the bill is significant on several levels. First, the movement out of Local Governments continues to provide momentum for the bill. Second, it provides the volunteer fire service with leverage to craft an agreement on whatever remaining opposition exists with the private ambulance networks. It would seem that with passage we are close to forging that agreement with the private ambulance network to our favor and without some previous non-starter items that were raised in prior years.

Our next step is to continue working with our fire service coalition members and to continue to generate grass root support for the bill. We will be sending out a new Engage to members this week. ASA will work with ABC on amplifying the Engage message and we will work with them on direct Tweets to legislators. Additionally, DKC has put together two very nice press conferences on the issue which will help amplify the issue.

We just got an agreement with the private ambulance network. They are tired of fighting us and see more utility in working with us on bigger issues. Now the issue will be the ability to seek direct reimbursement from the insurance companies. That is the final hurdle which insurance opposes. We will keep working!

Past President Jerry Owenburg asked that President Frank meet with joint council on the legalization of marijuana. Now is the time to set ground rules. This is a ground concern for the fire service.

2nd Vice President Peter Cincotta stated it is an opt in bill and to remember you cannot do this where you already can't smoke.

Fire Fighter of the Year – John Manzi – Committee met and picked winner. There are two from Lindenhurst. Letters were sent to the winners and runner ups.

Audit Committee – Jerry Owenburg

The audit was done, and all is good.

EMS – Meryl Montrose - Absent – no report

Resolutions – Eugene Perry – Absent – no report

Burn Center – Don Gleason

- They are selling challenge coins for \$15.00.
- Representative letters are going out. If you don't get one email the Secretary Mary Catherine Dolan. Every department can have a representative as well as every organization. They need Representatives to run correctly.
- Donations to be mailed to Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter Burn Center Fund to the Post Office Box not the hospital.

Annual Dinner – Bob McConville – Eugene Perry

Bob stated they are looking for a venue or a Fire House willing to host. He will have a report for the Executive Board meeting in June.

William Reilly Annual Journal – Giovanni Chiarelli

We will have a journal and the information is on the website.

Publicity – Vinny

Vinny handles Facebook and he did the Memorial Service live on Facebook and through Zoom. 2,000 people watched the Memorial Service on Facebook. One issue was that Facebook blocked the music out due to copyrights.

By-Laws – Peter Cincotta - nothing new. Has updated by-laws printed and will bring to next meeting.

Candidate Campaign – Bob McConville

Frank Guarino is running for five-year term as FASNY Director. Endorsement letter is out, and posters are done. Hospitality letter is out, which mentions Frank running and mentioned Gene Perry 2nd Vice President of FASNY and Jean Christensen Jr. Past President of LAFASNY.

Bob apologized on his Steering report. In 1982 Bill Rowse started as our Financial Secretary and no one knew what he did. Bob and Gene picked his brain to try and figure everything out. They were not sure how they would ever replace Bill. After interviewing five very qualified candidates, they choose Dan Brooks from the Patchogue FD as SCVFA new Financial Secretary – Welcome Dan.

Safety Officer – Jeff Bailes

- We strongly recommend everyone gets a vaccine. Please wear a face covering, wash your hands, maintain social distancing. Follow CDC guidelines.
- 48 LODD for 2021 most were COVID-19 related according to the USFA.
- Safety Stand Down week June 20-26
- New York State Association of Safety Officers and Brookhaven Town Safety Officers Association Raffle together there are over 10,000 members.
- At the request of FASNY Assembly Bill A6242 (ban of cancerous fire retardant) was supported by the Safety Officers and many other organizations, and it was passed unanimously.
- Next Zoom meeting regarding Safety July 10, 2021, 10am to 12 noon.
 1. Topic: "How to Protect Yourself from Getting Cancer" emails going out with sign on information.
 2. Presenter Chief LEEB Chief of the FDNY Fire Academy.
 3. Certificates will be available upon request.
- FDSOA Wellness Wednesday videos.
- Anyone interested in Becoming a Nationally Certified Safety Officer see me for a class.
- Free Posters to Promote Safety.

Thank you all Stay Safe and Healthy.

Fire Prevention & Life Safety – Don Bracciodieta

- Next meeting is June 3 at 8pm at the Brookhaven Museum.
 - We are collecting recipes for our Annual 2021 Fundraiser (This year will be a journal ad and a cookbook and then you can put in as many recipes as you like and in there will be safety notes) mailing sent out please look at your fire house.
 - May's fire and life safety messages
 1. Barbecue/Grill Safety: May is National Barbecue Month. Warmer temperatures and Memorial Day gatherings prompt New Yorkers to get out of their kitchens and fire up their grills.
 2. Dryer Safety: Spring cleaning is underway in many homes across New York State. We recommend cleaning of dryers and their exhaust vents be included in that cleaning process.
 3. Electrical Safety: May is also Electrical Safety Month. Check out and feel free to share the attached press release and electrical safety checklist from NFPA for information on how to reduce electrical-related fire and injuries.
 4. National Wildfire Awareness Month also takes place in May. Check out the following links from our friends at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for information regarding the burn ban that remains in effect Until May 15th (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/pre>)
 - Let us not forget to recognize the contributions of some of our partners in life safety this month. Be sure to show the healthcare professionals in your area some extra love and appreciation these weeks in May: Nurse's week May 6th -12th – Theme "Celebrating the Frontline Warrior" EMS Week May 16-22nd – Theme "Caring for our Communities".
 - Please like us on Facebook and you will get daily updates on fire prevention reports daily.
 - You can email us for any questions scfsea@suffolkfireeducators.com
 - Coming up Jun 8 NFPA 2021 Fire safety announcement for year.
- Let us all remember there is no honor fighting a fire that could have been prevented. Be safe and everyone have a great safe year.

Headquarters – Vinny Ammirati reported that the Hospitality letter went out. Vinny read the letter.

Ways N Means – Don Bracciodieta stood in for Meryl and ran the raffles.

Credentials: Dan Brooks reported 34 members signed in and 8 guests. If you did not sign the book, please do so.

Membership – Dan Brooks thanked the membership and officers for trusting him as Financial Secretary. He is moving the position into more Electronic Way. To date we have 116 paid members and 119 paid departments. There are a few that are delinquent.

John Masem Sr Scholarship – Keith Vella

Deadline is June 1st. He went over the criteria and to date he has 4 eligible. Application is on the website. We give out (4) \$500 scholarships.

President Guarino said that he has FASNY Scholarships to give out in Central Islip, Northport, and West Hempstead.

Youth in the Fire Service –Keith Vella there will be two youth days – One July 17 in Selden – 8am start and it is capped at 50. Information will be on the FASNY web site. The second is August 28th in West Pottsdam and it is also capped at 50 people. Sign up through the FASNY Office for this. Drill Teams have donated hose so that they can run a hose relay – will be a great day.

Firefighter Cancer Support Network- Jerry Owenburg reminded all not to put off test and follow up visit. Volunteer Firefighter magazine has the FASNY Cancer study in it, take a look.

Website – Roger Putnam.
All is up to date.

North Fork VFA - Carleton Raab – absent However they are not having meetings yet.

Long Island Benevolent – Peter Cincotta
Next meeting is July 30th in Hicksville.

Old Business – None

New Business –

Bob McConville made a motion not to attend the Mega shoe seconded by Jerry Owenburg all in favor.

Jerry Owenburg stated that the SCVFA Ladies Auxiliary is having a scratch off lotter and could we purchase \$100 worth. John Fleischman made a motion to purchase 10 chances at \$10 seconded by Anthony Sullo, all in favor.

Good and Welfare –

Warren Holtje from Islip Fire Museum stated that 25 years ago Bill Johnson got the Mega Show started with the man who was running it. In 2020 the museum received not of the money made on the Mega Show held in February 2020. This company is now doing it on their own at Hofstra, please note the Fire Museum is not profiting from this at all. The Islip Fire Museum has signed a five-year lease with NYS Fire Chiefs and will run a show with the Chiefs hopefully starting next year. Bob asked where Nassau stands – Nassau chiefs supports the museum.

Dark Horse – \$120 to winner and also raffled off two bottles.

Motion to take a hole sponsor in the Suffolk Chief's Golf Outing by Gary Stecker seconded by John Masem, all in favor.

The next membership meeting will be Tuesday July 27th in North Amityville.

Closing prayer by Reverend Joh Fleichman

Motion to adjourn by Vinny Ammirati seconded by John Masem, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jean Christensen
Secretary