



*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  
September 25, 2018 – Selden Fire Department**

Prior to the start of the meeting we had Guest Speakers from Suffolk County CERT.  
Meeting Called to order by President Chris Del Vecchio at 8:04 pm  
Salute to the flag led by Sergeant at Arms Vincent Ammirati  
Rev. Fleishman gave the opening prayer.

Chief Willams Zikis of the Selden Fire Dept. welcomed Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association to Selden. First Vice President Frank Guarino thanked the chief and department for hosting the meeting and serving dinner and presented certificate of thanks.

Legislator Kara Hahn and Rudy Sunderman spoke on Drug Overdose and how Suffolk County is the center of the Epidemic. They are rolling out a training Sat Oct 27<sup>th</sup> in Setauket –for volunteer fire and EMS personnel on Compassion fatigue/burnout on responding to so many drug overdose calls. This training is two hours and EMS does get CME credits. Chief Ruddy Sunderman of Mastic spoke on how we need to have compassion and not always assume that it is a drug overdose, sometimes it is not. They will get me a flyer to send out with the minutes.

M/M/S/P to accept the minutes of the July 24, 2018 meeting at the Riverhead Fire House.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ryan Murphy introduced the guests with us tonight  
Home Trustees /SCVFA P.P. Peter Cincotta  
FASNY Home Trustee/SCVFA P.P. Jerry Owenburg  
FASNY Past President/ SCVFA P. P. Bob McConville  
FASNY Director/ SCVFA P.P. Perry  
Vice Chair Alan Groveman and Gary Schaum from VEEB Board  
Joe DeStefano NYS Fire Districts  
Bill Mullane from Brookhaven Town Fire Police  
From Suffolk County Ladies – Jean Christensen President, Marybeth Asbell Vice President, Ann LaFountain Past President and Lori Zatorski Past President  
Legislative Friends Kara Hahn and Rudy Sunderman  
Anthony Sullo President of SNY  
Richard Linster Islip Town VOLLIES  
Don Bracciodieta Suffolk County Fire Educators

**Treasurers' Report:** Robert McConville read the total of all accounts, 30,092.80  
M/M/S/P to accept the treasurer's report.

**Bills:**  
Bob said all bills he had are paid.

### **Communications:**

Thank you for scholarship from Victoria Kilfeather and Lindsay G Bailey.

Suffolk County Firefighters Emerald Society Dinner is on October 13 at Shandon Court – Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning is the 2018 Irishwoman of the Year. Valor and Achievement Awards being presented are The Larry Williams Award for Valor to Second Lieutenant Miguel Barba & Firefighter Jose Abarca from Central Islip Fire Department, The Brennan-Schrang Award for Valor to 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Patrick Diecidue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Chief timothy Duckham, Ex-Chief John Hansen, Ex-Captain Jennifer O'Brien, Firefighter Joseph LaRocco of the Smithtown Fire Department and the Harold Lally Lifetime Achievement Award to Commissioner Vandorn Johnson of the Coram Fire Department and Dennis Whittman of the Terryville Fire Department.

Cost of the dinner is \$80 per person.

Suffolk County Fire Academy sent invitation to President Del Vecchio to attend the Medal of Valor Day on September 30 2018 1pm at the Brookhaven Fire House. Those receiving medals are: Gold to Peter DiPinto Sr of the Brookhaven Fire Department; Silver to Josias Arrastia, Brian Coughlin, Jason Pedota and Andrew Renison of the Brentwood Fire Department; Jose Abarca and Miguel Barba of the Central Islip Fire Department and Ian King and Shane Sharkey of the Southampton Fire Department; Bronze to Bradley Tatarian of Deer Park Fire Department, Jacob Milliken of Northport Fire Department and Michael Chiesa, Richard Doucet, Brian Perry Jr and Joseph Quenzer of the West Sayville Fire Department.

Thank you from FASNY for recent donation to the Chapel Fund in honor of Wayne Jagow.

Bill to Jean Christensen for \$20.19 to Staples for the plaque for Joseph Williams. M/M/S/P to pay the bill

Motion was made to purchase two tickets to Emerald Society Dinner for Vinny Ammariti and Bob Sutton to attend and represent Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association - M/M/S/P

### **Report of Presidents:**

#### **Report of President Chris DelVecchio:**

FASNY Convention

Drill Team Captains Association – State Parade

#### **Report of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Frank Guarino:**

Long Island Day at the Firemen's Home

FASNY Convention

#### **Report of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ryan Murphy:**

Various meetings for different associations

#### **Report of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Robert Sutton:**

Attended the FASNY Convention

#### **Steering Committee:** Robert McConville

Steering Committee met and the 2019 officers are. Financial Secretary Bill Rowse, , Treasurer Bob McConville, Secretary Jean Christensen, Sgt. at Arms – Meryl Montrose of the St James Fire Department (letter received from St. James FD), 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Vincent Ammirati, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Robert Sutton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ryan Murphy and President Frank Guarino – letter of endorsement was received from Hagerman Fire Dept. for Frank.

### **Sickness:**

No Report

### **F.A.S.N.Y.:** Eugene Perry

- FASNY had convention in August – the new Officers are President Steven Klein from Oceanside, Nassau County, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President John Farrell, from Athens in Greene County and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Edward Tase from Lockport in Niagara County.
- Firefighter Cancer coverage – The Volunteer Fire Service with NYSAC along with the State Chiefs and Districts have developed a nationwide RFP and program to provide the most efficient cost to the Fire Service. This is called the NYS Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Benefit Program. The sole purpose is providing 1 policy for all of the Fire Service instead of having 1800 different policies for the same thing. More information will follow once DFS approves the program. The carrier is the Hartford Insurance, Willet Towers will do a lot of the administration in conjunction with the Hartford. There is no firm cost for the program as it doesn't yet have DFS approval. The insurance companies have used a figure of \$300 per eligible firefighter for budgeting purposes. AHJ can choose any carrier they wish for the Insurance. At the FASNY Legislative Conference in November, all Insurance companies have been asked to attend to answer questions about their plans. As long as their plans meet the basic requirements of the statute and the OFPC Regulations they can offer their plans. The most up to Date FAQ's on this Program are on the FASNY website under Legislation/Cancer Legislation FAQ's.
- The FASNY Legislative Conference will be held Saturday and Sunday, November 3 & 4 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy. This is where FASNY will present its Legislative Program for the coming session.
- Father Jagow retired after 28 years and new FASNY chaplain is Barrie Lynn Forster Chapel at the Firemen's Home will be renamed after Father Jagow and will be dedicated on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Home Trustees:** Jerry Owenburg - Peter Cincotta

- There are 72 brothers & sisters right now but working on applications.
- If you know of anyone that would like to go to the Home please see Peter or Jerry, they will help them fill out the application.
- Long Island Day was a beautiful day – Jerry has some programs with him.
- Portico is going up – looks like it should all be done by Thanksgiving.
- Suffolk County needs to get more to turn out for Long Island Day. Great showing by the Selden Juniors. Please plan now to go up next year, is the third Sunday in September. The Members like to see us.
- Peter announced that Jerry was elected Vice President of the Board of Trustees
- When shopping on Amazon FASNY Firemen's Home is now part of the Smile program – please consider choosing FASNY Firemen's Home when shopping.

Bob McConville – Jerry was reelected for another five year term and Vice President – have not had a Vice President on Board of Trustees since Teddy Rosko and no President since the 1970's. Jerry is continuing to do a great job.

### **Suffolk County Chiefs:** Scott Theobolt -

### **Southern New York VFA:** Anthony Sullo

- Next meeting is October 6<sup>th</sup> at Hillcrest Fire Dept. in Rockland at 8pm.
- If attending the FASNY Legislative Conference be sure your SNY dues is paid and bring card.

### **Suffolk County Ladies:** Marybeth Asbell

Have various fundraisers going on.

At LAFASNY Convention Lori Zatorski received the LAFASNY Member Recognition Award.

### **Long Island Firemen's Benevolent Assoc.** – Doug Miller was absent

### **Commissioner Williams's Report:**

Friday September 28 3pm John J. Jordan will be Acting Commissioner – Walk out for Joe Williams will be at 3pm.

### **Father Halpin Memorial Service:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bob Sutton

May 5, 2019 – still looking for department to host.

**S.C.V.F.A. Parade and Drill:** Peter Cincotta

Off for the winter

**Day at the Home:**

Reported above.

**FRES -** Ryan Murphy

Regular meeting will be held tomorrow night.

Special meeting held – There was a letter issued by FRES Commission sent to Legislators and was in Newsday, firehouse.com. Letter expressed displeasure on provisional appointment of Joel Vetter to position of Chief of Fire Rescue for FRES – he was desk audited and found to be doing the duties for that position. He has to take test and be reachable. Meeting started discussing retirement of Joe Williams and process of hiring his replacement. They then went into executive session and this letter was issued following that meeting. Ryan said that there was a lot of personal information in the letter and some information in letter was inaccurate. He drafted a letter of rebuttal. Has been topic at Suffolk Chiefs and Islip Town Chiefs.

Ryan said that FRES commission members have not received copy of the original letter but they did receive letter of Ryan's letter.

Discussion was held -

Jerry – is test promotional or open test – Civil Service has now decided to hold both promotional and open competitive test Question was requirement changed that you now must be EMT? Ryan confirmed that but that it might be changed.

Requirement before was to be a fire investigator

Argument in letter was that EMS has no place at FRES – Ryan said that 70% of employees had to be EMT's when hired. Calls are much heavier on the EMS side, Ryan did not feel it absurd.

Chief of Mastic Rudy Sunderman stated that President worked for FRES – was on FRES commission but decided to come off the Commission – perhaps you should consider that. Do you want to be 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of Suffolk County VFA or do you want to be on the FRES Commission – you need to make a decision, you cannot do both.

Bob McConville – how did you get letter if it isn't out? Ryan said he got it from someone. Ryan showed the Board the FRES letter and the SCVFA President's before he sent it out. The fact that you have inside information cannot be helpful to this organization. When letters are sent, it is decided by the floor, not one individual. Bob said it is a bad situation for him to be on FRES Commission. Peter Cincotta stated if letter had been chosen to go out, it should have gone out by the Secretary through the Presidents. In the future letters should not go out without the membership's agreement.

Jay Egan – He is a FRES Commission member and President of Suffolk County Fire Districts. All was done in executive session chairman Kraft put out the letter – his responsibility was to inquire why the Civil Service made changes and how that came about and also ask Public Safety – he did not write letter representing fire districts – his board had not met. This should be FRES Commission issue. This has politics written all over it and is a big problem in this county. Writing letters will not help – we need to sit down and discuss this is why we have the Joint Council. Joint council does a lot without getting politics involved. It is hard to be on FRES Commission and a Vice President of VOLLIES – Chris chose to step down.

**VEEB:** Gary Schaum

- Al Groveman is here with us tonight.
- Training request for 2019 both field and fire classes have been sent out – response deadline is October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Annual Fire Police field day was held and 80 people attended.
- Flash over prop will be reconditioned, so we will have two flash over simulators next year.
- Repairs and improvements are continuing on the field and every effort is being made to insure there won't be any impact on the training.
- Medal of Valor Ceremony Sunday Sept 30<sup>th</sup> at Brookhaven Fire Headquarters 1pm.
- New address for Fire Academy is 103 East Avenue, Yaphank, NY 11980
- Sign by entrance to training grounds across from pump testing building installed with names of departments and businesses that have made donations to fire academy.
- Working on National Certification for Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 classes – will be retroactive last four years.

- Question again was brought up about again about juniors doing the classroom book work for firefighter 1. Was stated that it is NYS that will not allow this. Gary Schaum to check into this.

Discussion was held on how we can get the Juniors to be able to do the book work.

- Eugene Perry said he spoke to FASNY attorney about this and said that the Department must have in their by-laws Restricted Active Members with the parameters.
- Nassau County Jr. Fire Association has their own insurance, this is how they are able to do the trainings.
- Peter Cincotta stated Suffolk County has tried three times to put program together with Keith Vella similar to Nassau County, but they come up short each time. Maybe it is time to try again.
- SNY runs Seminar in November and all Juniors can attend.

**Radio:** Anthony Sullo:

No formal meeting

**Fire Police:** Vice President Guarino:

Suffolk County Fire Police Day at the Academy was successful.

Next state meeting is October 12-13 in Lake George

**Legislative:** Bill Wieck Absent –Eugene Perry gave report

- The legislative year in Albany was one of the strangest to date. By the end of the legislative session the New York State Senate had devolved into a free for all as one of the members, Senator Tom Croci, left prematurely to fill a military commitment. This left a deadlocked Senate with 31 Republicans and 31 Democrats controlling the Senate. In the end this caused many bills to “fall-off” the table at the end of session. Still, FASNY was able to pass several bills that were either on the FASNY or IUC agenda. These including the following bills:

A01424 (Wallace)/S8251 (Robach)

Enacts a fire vehicle lemon law.  
FASNY and IUC priority

A10327A (Gunther)/S8019A (Griffo)

- Exempts the cost of volunteer firefighter enhanced cancer disability benefits from a fire district’s budget spending limitations.
- IUC priority.

A10311B (Wallace)/S7373C (Ritchie)

- Directs the Commissioner of Homeland Security and Emergency Services to develop a plan to allow for Firefighter I and II certifications to be completed at firefighter’s home department or online.
- IUC issue as initially sought budget language.

A10198 (Pellegino)/S7829A (Boyle)

- Relates to conducting a study on the weight limitations of fire vehicles on the state’s highways and roads.
- Issue first brought forth by Past President Robert McConville regarding an incident in Suffolk County.
- The initial weight restriction exemption, passed several years ago, did not include minor technical language which fully exempted all vehicles.
- This bill will take a broader look to make sure that all fire trucks are fully exempted.

A8057B (Abbate)/S6242B (Akshar)

- Legislation relates to the qualification of fire chiefs in any combination department with five or more career firefighters.
- This bill was negotiated between FASNY, union and Fire Chiefs
- The bill does not apply to current chiefs (not retroactive)

**EMS Billing**

Although EMS billing did not pass, as mentioned we were able to make some inroads with fruitful discussions with the United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN). We are continuing these discussions and are hopeful that this

will help over the issue to passage in the 2019 legislative session. As we continue to speak with UNYAN later this year, we will keep the Board apprised of those discussions.

#### DEC Grant Information – Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

DEC recently announced on August 10, 2018 deadline for all applications by rural fire departments for “volunteer Fire assistance grants”. This is a 50/50 matching grant program up to \$1500. Last year DEC provided 319 departments with grants. Additional information regarding the grant program can be found at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2364.html>.

#### Senator Pam Helming Roundtable

Senator Helming has asked if FASNY would participate in a volunteer firefighter/fire responder roundtable meeting on Thursday, September 20 from 5:30 – 7:30pm at Finger Lakes Community College. Senator Helming is seeking to invite the volunteer departments from her district for an informational discussion about possible grant opportunities, the new insurance option, and an open discussion of what challenges fire departments are facing. ASA has been in contact with her office and we are working with the FASNY Legislative Committee, David Quinn and President Klein on responding to this request.

**Firefighter of the Year:** Roger Putnam was absent –

President Del Vecchio said everything is set for Sunday – please wear your greens. Starts 1pm

**EMS:** Meryl Montrose: Absent - Peter Cincotta read email of her report

Meryl asked to be excused from the meeting and Elections as she is in Albany attending State EMS Council meeting.

- Meeting started with a Moment of Silence in memory of both Tom Cronogue and Marie Dunelavy. Tom was a long time member of REMSCO representing SC EMS Instructors and Marie was a founding member of the SC EMS CISM Team.
- A CPR Life Saving Award was given to the members of the Deer Park FD
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Tom Lateulere Education Conference is this Saturday, 9/29 at Community Ambulance in Sayville. At last count almost 100 providers have registered.
- Greenlawn FD is Suffolk County’s Agency of the Year. Dinner will be held on 10/25/18 starting at 630PM
- The Final draft of the revised NYS BLS Protocols will be presented at this week’s State EMS Council Meeting, hopefully, for approval.
- Suffolk Co., Nassau Co and New York City have started exploring the possibility of developing Down State Collaborative ALS Protocols or joining the Upstate Collaborative Protocols already in use.
- The end of the year will see 2 retirements from the EMS Bureau. Both Robert Delagi and Karl Klug will be leaving the end of the year. A party is being planned in January with more information to be forthcoming.

**Resolutions:** Eugene Perry

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its sincere thanks to the Selden Fire Department for hosting tonight’s meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extent its sincere thanks to the Patchogue Fire Dept. for hosing the August Executive Board meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its Congratulations to the Hagerman Fire Department Jr. “Gamblers” Drill Team for winning the 2018 New York State Jr. Championship.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association extend its Congratulations to the Bay Shore Fire Department “Redskins” for winning the 2018 New York State Motorized Championship.

M/M/S/P to accept all resolutions as read.

**Burn Center Stony Brook:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jeff Bailes

Absent

**Annual Dinner:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ryan Murphy was excused. President DelVecchio reported:

- 10/20/18 at Mills Pond Golf Course
- Sold 102 tickets to date. All tickets out except for the Burn Center

**William Reilly Annual Journal:** Jeff Bresler:

Sent out two mailings – we are just under last year – Deadline is Monday. They are going to try to lower the cost of the printing.

**Publicity:** Vice President Murphy:

No report

**By-Laws:** Eugene Perry:

Progress

**Candidate Campaign:** Robert McConville:

Peter Cincotta will be running next year for five year term as Trustee of the Firemen's Home.

**Safety Officer:** Larry Montrose – Absent Vinny gave report

There is a class Sept 29<sup>th</sup> in Coram hosted by Brookhaven Town 7am registration 8am training. \$75 dollars at the door. There is a question is they are issuing National Certification or not.

**Fire Prevention & Life Safety:** Don Braccioldieta

- This year is "Look, Listen, Learn, Be Aware, Fire can happen anywhere"
- Next meeting is Friday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup> at Brookhaven Museum. They have a facebook page and update daily.

**NFPA:** Paul Van Arts Dalen:

None – Absent

**Recruitment and Retention:** Vice President Murphy:

Waiting to hear on grant

**Headquarters:** Vice President Sutton:

- Thank you to all who donated.

**Ways and Means:** Vincent Ammirati:

\$115 to winner

Please take memorial candles back to your department from FASNY Memorial Service

**Credentials:** Vincent Ammirati reported:

45 people signed in tonight.

**Membership:** William Rowse reported:

Dues notices going out. Dues must be paid to vote.

**John A. Masem, Sr. Scholarship:** Keith Vella:

All scholarships have been delivered. The committee will try to rework the requirement, so it is not just HS seniors but could be for fireman in school as well.

**Youth in the Fire Service:** Keith Vella:

Was successful with 48 Kids participated/ 14 advisors – 7 from West Babylon.

They will no longer be held at convention but instead around the state – hoping to hold 2-3 next year.

**Firefighter Cancer Support Network:** Jerry Owenburg:

If anyone needs help please reach out to us, they have a lot of connections.

The first Monday in May is the golf outing

**Website:** Roger Putnam: absent

Roger renewed the Subscription

### **Unfinished Business**

None

### **New Business** –

Legislative meeting is in East Farmingdale on October 6 at 9am.

Region 7 Fire Police in North Sea on Friday night.

Jerry stated that Fire Dept. rescue members can get CME credits for rehab in Yaphank.

### **Elections**

At this time Bob McConville ran the nominations and elections

Financial Secretary we have William Rowse – there being no further nominations Eugene Perry moved nominations be closed, seconded by Rev. Fleishman

Treasurer – Robert McConville – there being no further nominations Peter Cincotta moved nominations be closed seconded by Rev. Fleishman.

Secretary – Jean Christensen was appointed in July for the year.

Sgt. At Arms – Meryl Montrose – there being no further nominations Rev Fleishman moved nominations be closed seconded by Peter Cincotta.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Vinny Ammariti – there being no further nominations Peter Cincotta moved nominations be closed seconded by Rev. Fleishman.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Bob Sutton – there being no further nominations Don B moved nominations be closed seconded by Peter Cincotta.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Ryan Murphy- at this time Ryan declined the nomination

Eugene Perry nominated Peter Cincotta

Don B nominated Bob Sutton

President – Frank Guarino – there being no further nominations Eugene moved nominations be closed seconded by Rev. Fleishman.

William Rowse made a motion that the Secretary case one ballot for all uncontested positions except for 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, until we see results of election of 1<sup>st</sup> vice president seconded by Rev. John Fleishman

Bob went to make ballots. Bob appointed Tellers John Stein and Gary Schaum

Question on floor – Peter Cincotta has declined the nomination for the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Eugene nominated Peter to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President seconded by Jerry Owenburg.

Are there anymore nominations for any positions -

Motion to cast one ballot for all positions unopposed by Jerry Owenburg seconded by Anthony Sullo



Your newly elected officers are:

President: Frank Guarino; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Robert Sutton; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Peter Cincotta; 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Vincent Ammariti; Sgt At Arms Meryl Montrose; Financial Secretary William Rowse, Treasurer Robert McConville.

Chris congratulated all newly elected Officers.

Frank Guarino thanked all for their vote and he will do a good job– welcome back aboard Peter Cincotta – sorry to see you go Ryan –

Chris DelVecchio you did a great job for two years and Frank wished him the best. At this time Frank presented Chris with his Past President's pin.

**Good & Welfare –**

- Drill in memory of Drew McCaffrey was held by Cutchogue and Central Islip and raised \$9500 for Cancer Network.
- Rev. Fleischman's wife Sue had been very ill and was in hospital – thank you for the concern
- Ryan Murphy thanked the Association and Members who reached out when his Father passed away.
- It disappoints me to have to decline the position and thank you for allowing me to service the association. He will continue to do what he can for the association.
- Chris thanked the association – it was a pleasure working with everyone to get things done.

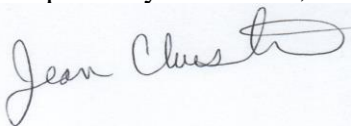
Ryan Murphy at this time resigned his position on the FRES Commission effective immediately. Motion to accept his resignation by Jerry Owenburg second by Peter Cincotta, all in favor.

At this time the Officers were sworn in to office.

Dark horse was drawn  
Winner was Peter Cincotta

Closing Prayer by Rev. Fleischman  
Motion to adjourn at 9:40pm by Peter Cincotta seconded by Anthony Sullo

Respectfully Submitted,



Jean Christensen  
Secretary