



LADIES AUXILIARY
to the
**HUDSON VALLEY VOLUNTEER
FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION**
FOUNDER AND CHARTER PRESIDENT
LUCY E. CONTENTO



CHATTERBOX

February 2026

SECTIONAL MEETING SUNAY APRIL 19, 2026

Director in Charge – Dana Navan

Coldeham Fire Department

511 Coldenham Road, Walden, NY 12586

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 10:30 A.M.

EXECUTIVE MEETING – 11:00 A.M.

LUNCHEON – 12:00 NOON

MEMBERSHIP MEETING – 1:00 P.M.

Words from President Gina-Marie Pacicca:

It is with great pride and gratitude that I extend warm greetings to each of you. As I write this on a very cold wintery day, remember that Spring is only 62 days and 13 hours currently (but who is counting). Our organization stands on a foundation of service, compassion, and community values that continue to guide us in all that we do.

I know this edition of the Chatterbox will have lots of information on the Convention, journal ads, & boosters. Please share this information with your Auxiliaries and Fire Companies; encourage them to take an ad &/or booster.

Please remember if you plan to run for a position; letters of intent need to be submitted to the Secretary for the upcoming April meeting.

As Presidents before me have said "Our Auxiliary is only as strong as its membership". Please think about bringing a friend with you to our next meeting. Maybe they will want to join our great group of ladies!

As we move forward, let's continue to serve with compassion, embrace new opportunities, and strengthen the bonds that unite us. I am honored to serve as your President and I look forward to seeing you all in Coldenham, and another year of meaningful work and shared accomplishments.

Words from 2nd Vice President Megan Rivenburgh:

Hello everyone!!! I am amazed on the success of the Christmas Boutique a sincere thank you to all that made the day run smooth & fun! Now THINK SPRING is the theme of the next meeting!!! As always donations of items or baskets are very appreciated. If any of the Auxiliaries would like to donate a basket that is welcome as well. Don't forget your Dark Secrets and Specials! With Convention approaching the 50/50 raffle tickets are included in this chatterbox and the money tree will be in the next Chatterbox.

My address is on them so feel free to get a jump on purchasing them and you can mail them to me. See you in April!

Words from Financial Secretary Tammy Nosek:

Hope everyone is doing well. Just a quick update to let everyone know that all the membership dues' letters were mailed out the second week of November to everyone not paid up through 2026. If you have not already done so, please get your checks mailed back to me at Tammy Nosek, LAHVFA Fin. Sec., 18 Yeoman Rd, Newburgh, NY 12550.

In addition, delegate/dues forms went out to all auxiliaries. A lot of auxiliaries are up to date on dues, but I will still need your delegate form filled out and sent back. Feel free to email them to me at tammy.nosek@outlook.com if you do not owe for dues.

Thank you all for keeping up to date and making my job easier. Hope to see everyone at the April meeting. I encourage all of you to attend as your input and support to the Auxiliary is valued.

Words from Journal Chairperson Sue Mehan:

To make the Journal a success, we need your help. Please consider supporting our cause by (1) your auxiliary taking an ad in our Journal. Letters have been sent out to everyone who took an ad last year with a copy of the ad. (2) encouraging your members to take ads, boosters, or memorials in the Journal; (3) asking members to solicit ads from local businesses in your area. Ad prices are: **Full page - \$80.00; ½ page - \$45.00; ¼ page - \$35.00; and 1/8 page - \$30.00. Boosters are \$1.00 per line. Memorials are \$5.00 and include name of memorialized person and your name. Please note the sizes of the ads...these are not full 8 ½" by 11" ads. Please, if you are emailing me an ad, be sure it is the proper size; I cannot open pdf or jpeg emails to change the size. If I have the printer, do it, it costs us \$\$.**

Full Page Ad is	8" x 6.5"	Half Page Ad is	8" x 3.25"
Quarter Page Ad is	4" x 3.25"	Eighth Page Ad is	2" x 3.25"

See page 4 for the booster and memorials submittal form.

To assure the best quality, please use only digital pictures in your ad and submit same as you wish it to appear by email to the address above. All ads with photos, logos, graphics, or unusual fonts **MUST** be submitted by email (see email address below). Please submit hard copy of ad with payment.

Deadline for all ads, boosters and memorials is **April 30, 2026**. Checks should be made payable to **LAHVFA** and mailed with a clearly written or typed copy of your Ad to Susan Mehan, PO Box 651, Stillwater, NY 12170. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the 518-281-3459 or email at lahvfajournal@gmail.com

Words from Daily Drawing Chairperson Karen McDonald:

DO YOU FEEL LUCKY???

I will have the tickets for our July 2026 daily drawing at our April meeting for all that are interested in purchasing some or would like to take some to sell.. Please contact me call/text 518-339-9605 or by email at kmcdonald@earthlink.net with any questions or requests for special numbers.

Thank-you to those who do sell or purchase tickets regularly for each drawing.

Words from HVVFA President Robert A. Schrader:

Officers, Members, and Friends of the Ladies

It is a honor to be the President of Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association. I want to thank all of you in the Auxiliary that have supported me over the last 19 months. Praise to President Gina-Marie over the last year dealing with loss of Judy and stepping up earlier as acting President and now President. Congratulations to the other Ladies Auxiliary members elected this past June. I'm looking forward to continue working with all of you during this 51stth year as an Auxiliary.

I want to inform you of our team of officers and Directors; Robert Fritsche 1st VP, John O'Brien, 2nd VP, George Hill as Treasurer, Jack Delaney as Financial Secretary, and Barbara Fischer as Secretary. Newly elected in June was LuAnn Edele as Director to her first term, Jeri Mehan elected to his second term. On December 28 the Board appointed Brenda Gausby to Director position (Brenda was appointed to fill a vacant Director spot.). All three President positions (two year terms) will be up for election at June Convention along with (one year terms) Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and Secretary. Our Secretary Barbara Fischer will be stepping down as Secretary. We are in the process of looking for candidates to run for Secretary. Director Gausby will have to run for her first 4 year term and a second candidate to run for James Hartwick Directorship as James will have completed his 2nd four year term and is not eligible run again as Director.

Our April Quarterly meeting will be held April 26th starting 1:00 pm with lunch served at 12:00pm. The Lake George Fire Department will be hosting at their firehouse. Lake George Fire Department Convention Committee is moving forward with planning. They have had several meetings and are well on their way. Matthew Oswald and Thomas McKinney leading the way along with Jessica and Nick Benjamin, Beth Brundage, Leisha McKinney and many other Department members. The parade routes have been modified to end on Beach Road this year. One of the changes this year is the parade applications is a online application. The link can be reached through hvvfa.com web site. The Association meetings and registration will again be at the Georgian with Auxiliary events at the Holiday Inn. More to follow on details as we move forward on our Web Page and future issues of the Chatterbox. Remember that the Convention week has been moved for this 137 Convention to the second week of June (June 11-13, 2026.)

Firefighters Association State of New York Convention this year will be at August 18-22 at Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, NY. Our own Donald Farrell will be running for President, along with Thomas McKinney for Trustee of the Home. At this time both of them may have opposition. The Association will know by our Convention in June if we will need to run buses to help get them elected. Stay tuned for details as we get closer to August..

I want to congratulate your members (who I had the honor to be at their installation) Karen McDonald as LAFASNY Financial Secretary and Gina-Marie Pacicca to the LAFASNY Board of Directors. They do a great job for LAFASNY.

In closing please stay safe and healthy!

LAHVVFA YEARBOOK ADS AND BOOSTERS
DEADLINE-----April 30, 2026

Make checks payable to: **LAHVVFA**
Mail to: **Sue Mehan, PO Box 651, Stillwater, NY 12170**

Boosters: \$1.00 per name (note: Mr. & Mrs. **OR** John and Mary Doe are two names)
Business Boosters: \$5.00 for businesses who may want to support our journal but do not wish to take a block ad in our journal.

List your booster and business boosters below; unless otherwise specified, all names on this form will be listed with county of member submitting the form.

Booster name(s)	County

The following is for "in memory of". Each name with donor is \$5.00. All memorial ads will be on special memorial pages.

In Memory of	_____	from	_____
In Memory of	_____	from	_____
In Memory of	_____	from	_____
In Memory of	_____	from	_____
In memory of	_____	from	_____

Name of member submitting form: _____

County: _____ Date: _____

Bylaw New Addition to Article 2:
New: Section 12

Associate Membership: An individual who is currently a member in good standing with a Fire Association/Organization that is not within the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association may be duly accepted in this organization upon proper application and approval of the membership. The Applicant must be 18 years of age or older, the application must be accompanied by a \$10 Initiation fee. This member once approved will be required to pay an annual \$10 in dues, and will not have voting privileges in this organization.

AMENDMENT TO A CURRENT BYLAW: Article 3 Section 2

Current bylaw:

SECTION 2 – The President, after serving a full term of **ONE (1)** year, may succeed herself for a second term. **NO** President shall hold office for more than **TWO (2)** consecutive years. The 1st Vice President can be moved to President, the 2nd Vice President can be moved to 1st Vice President and a new 2nd Vice President can be elected at the next Annual Convention. Any of the aforesaid Officers can be chosen from the floor, by choice of the membership. The term of office of the Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer shall be for **ONE (1)** year. These Officers can succeed themselves. **NO** person shall be eligible for election or appointment to any office unless she has been an Individual Member, in good standing, for at least **THREE (3)** years. An Election Chairperson and **THREE (3)** Tellers, chosen by the President, shall have complete charge of all nominations and the elections.(updated6/24)

Proposed amendment: in BOLD print

SECTION 2 – The President, after serving a full term of ONE (1) year, may succeed herself for a second term. NO President shall hold office for more than TWO (2) consecutive years. The 1st Vice President can be moved to President, the 2nd Vice President can be moved to 1st Vice President and a new 2nd Vice President can be elected at the next Annual Convention. Any of the aforesaid Officers can be chosen from the floor, by choice of the membership. The term of office of the Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer shall be for ONE (1) year. These Officers can succeed themselves. **NO person shall be eligible for election or appointment to the office of President, 1st Vice President, or 2nd Vice President, unless they have been an Individual Member, in good standing, for at least THREE (3) years. NO person shall be eligible for election or appointment to the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Recording Secretary or Directors position unless they have been an individual Member in good standing for at least ONE (1) years.** An Election Chairperson and THREE (3) Tellers, chosen by the President, shall have complete charge of all nominations and the elections.

CONVENTION 2025

On behalf of the Members of the Lake George Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Convention Committee, I am pleased to announce the following information for our 51st Annual LA HVVFA Meeting in June 2026.

Convention Headquarters will be at the Holiday Inn Resort Lake George located at 2223 Canada Street, Lake George, NY 12845. To be held June 10th through the 12th.

All meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn beginning Wednesday June 10th, Please watch for details in the upcoming Chatterboxes.

Rooms and secured rates for the group have been set up. **Reservations are open now** and members must make their reservations individually by calling the Holiday Inn Resort at 518- 668-5781 using the code **AUX**. Ten rooms have been set aside to begin and if needed more will be opened.

Rates are: Monday night through and including Thursday night at \$159.00 and Friday and Saturday night at \$225.00 Plus Tax on all nights.
All rooms booked must with the code : **AUX**

If you have any issues making you reservation do not hesitate to reach out to our Auxiliary President and Ladies Committee Chair Patty Schuster at patty1266@hotmail.com

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**RESERVAITON FOR THE HVVFA-LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING LUNCHEON ON
THURSDAYJUNE 11. 2026 – DEADLINE is May 29, 2026.**

**COST IS \$38.00 PER PERSON - CHECKS/MONEY ORDER MADE OUT TO:
Lake George Fire Department Auxiliary**

Menu includes Assorted Pastries, Coffee Station, Bottled Water and Soda. Lunch menu consists of a Green Salad, Garlic Bread, Chicken Parmesan, Meatballs, Pasta, Alfredo and Marinara Sauce, Cookies and Brownies.

PLEASE LIST ALL MEMBERS /GUEST ATTENDING BELOW:

SUMMITTED BY: _____

EMAIL OR CELL #: _____

PLEASE MAIL ALL RESERVATIONS TO Lake George Fire Auxiliary, PO Box 371, Lake George, NY 12845 BY THE DEADLINE

HAPPENINGS

ORANGE COUNTY – Submitted by Loreen Miller, Orange County VP

On December 5, 2025, the Cronomer Valley Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary held their annual Christmas dinner and installation of officers. The 2026 officers are President- Mary Ann Fogg, Vice-President -Linda Smith, Recording Secretary-Heather Barbero, Corresponding Secretary-Maria Taylor, Financial Secretary- Joan Quackenbush, Treasurer- Dolores Vogel, and Chaplin-Linda Smith.

The officers and members are in the process of planning events to celebrate the Auxiliary's 90th (!) Anniversary. They have been organized since 1936. Event updates can be found on their Facebook page Cronomer Valley Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

Convention 50/50 Raffles – Copy If you need additional

Convention 50/50 \$1.00 each - 6 for \$5.00 Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____	Convention 50/50 \$1.00 each - 6 for \$5.00 Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____
Convention 50/50 \$1.00 each - 6 for \$5.00 Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____	Convention 50/50 \$1.00 each - 6 for \$5.00 Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____
Convention 50/50 \$1.00 each - 6 for \$5.00 Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____	Convention 50/50 \$1.00 each - 6 for \$5.00 Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Tickets and check or money order payable to LA-HVVFA should be sent Megan Rivenburgh, 205 Jefferson Heights, Catskill, NY 12414

POSTAGE FUND DONATION THANK YOU TO:

Nelson Durland, Linda Stacey, Dinah Mutz, Tammy Nosek, Dianne Werner, Karen McDonald, Diana Balling, Selena Cable, Eleanor Merrill, Victoria Dichian, Joanne Jantz, Sheri King, Carol Kraus, Josephine Burns, Sue Peck, Deb Tierney, Nancy Pacella, Susan Jamison, Carol Madden, Janine Wheeler, Paul Englert, SuSu Scognamiglio, Gina-Maria Pacicca, Holly Eichler, Alison Englert, Megan Riverburgh, Catherine Johnson, Lisa Novella, Dawn Valk, Heidi Wheelock, Barbara Stewart, Tina Healy-Leather, Diane Lorenz, Brenda Martines, Joyce Miller-McGovern, Judy ?

Thank you one and all for your generosity!!! We collected \$64.00.

Donations can be mailed to the editor, Karen McDonald, 3 Andrews Road Apt. 11, Troy, NY 12180-8438 if you are unable to attend the meeting. Checks should be made payable to LAHVFA.

If you would like to receive your Chatterbox **via e-mail**, please e-mail me at kmcdonald@earthlink.net. Include your name, address, telephone number and the e-mail address that you would like it sent to.

The Chatterbox
c/o K. McDonald
3 Andrews Road Apt. 11
Troy, NY 12180-8438

**Post Master please notify me of any
address corrections.**

**ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE ARE DUE
April 26, 2026**

