



THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER

Volume No. 2021 Issue 02

October 2021

From the Office of the 1st Vice President

Greetings from the Mid-Hudson Valley!

First and foremost, I want to thank you all for having the confidence in me to become 1st Vice President. The last 7 years as Director have been an incredible honor and I am excited to represent the Valley as 1st VP. I look forward to working with President Outhouse and 2nd VP John Coyle to continue what our prestigious Past Presidents have done.

One important endeavor we are continuously working on is the technological side of the "business". These behind-the-scenes improvements ultimately help all of you, our membership. We are striving to keep you well informed and up to date.

It is good to be getting out and visiting all the County Associations. This has really started to give us all a little sense of normalcy in this crazy world. I don't think we are out of the woods yet, but as we learn to adapt, things will get easier for all of us. Isn't that what we are best at? The good news is we are out seeing our friends, working on the issues that affect us and planning conventions, dinners, and parades. No better way to spend our nights!

Speaking of parades, next year's convention is moving right along. Looks like we will be in a brand-new firehouse, one that will fit the Association, as well as the Ladies Auxiliary. The convention will be held in Wallkill, NY. Ulster County Battalion 4 is the host, just like 2020. We have resumed planning and will have an updated hotel list out to everyone in the very near future. We are fortunate in this part of the process, as we had everything all set and had to cancel in May of 2020. We are "knocking the dust off" the plans and bringing everything up to date.

Coming off the "NY Pause", we've become much more accustomed to virtual meetings and learning. This led us to trying something new this year. Instead of the paper forms for the parade application as the only means of signing up, you will receive a post card with two bar codes. One code for the Mardi-Gras, one code for the dress parade. Hover over the barcode on the card with your smart phone or tablet and it brings you directly to the application (not much different than looking at the menu at your local Applebee's). Once filled out and completed everything is automated for the host to compile the list of attendees and information for the MC on the reviewing stand. Of course, we will still offer paper applications for anyone that wants one or a link to the application, just email us at walkillfd@gmail.com and we'll get it out to you.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the quarterly meeting in Buchanan. Until then be safe, healthy and God Bless America!

Respectfully,
Eric Orr
1st VP HVVFA

Published six times a year with news and updates to benefit the HVVFA volunteer!

If you'd like to submit an event, article, photo, etc., for publication, please feel free to send your information in! Our next deadline:

November 15, 2021 for the December edition!

You can send your information by e-mail to editorHVVFA@gmail.com

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ROBERT OUTHUSE

VICE-PRESIDENTS

1st VP Eric Orr 2nd VP John Coyle IV

Recording Secretary

Courtney Davidson

Financial Secretary

Joseph Mellan

Treasurer

Harry Barrett

Jr Past President

Michael Karashay

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Fritsche, Robin Reynolds, Yale Frank, John Cassidy Sr, James Hartwick, Edward Butler Jr, Jeri Mehan

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Liaison: Director Eric Orr

Editor Fran Galu, Chairperson

Marilyn Schrader, Vice Chairperson

Susan Mehan Vincent Galvin

and all County VP's.

Liaison to Ladies Auxiliary HVVFA

Diana Balling

ADVERTISING RATES

*All rates are per issue**

Business Card - \$25

Half Page - \$65

Quarter Page \$40

Full Page - \$125

Members' Campaign Ads @ Costs Shown Above

**5% discount for a year's advertising*

Memorial/Sponsor Page donations \$100

Our next deadline is:

November 15, 2021

2022 Award Nominations

HVVFA Presidential Memorial Awards

Firefighter of the Year/EMS of the Year/Unit Citation

Chairperson: LuAnn Edele

Send all applications for the awards to:

LuAnn Edele, Chairperson

55 Meridian Drive

Brewster, NY 10509

(845) 234-3127

Email: luannedele@gmail.com

HVVFA FIRE POLICEMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chairmen: Douglas C Mann, Thomas With

Send all applications for the FIRE POLICEMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD to either/both:

Douglas C Mann

103 N. Liberty Drive

Stony Point, NY 10980

(845) 742-0009

Mr103liberty@aol.com

Thomas With

34 Woodside Avenue

Colonie, NY 12205

(518) 438-7486

tomwith@hotmail.com

JOSEPH F. KELLY MEMORIAL

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Chairman: Donald Farrell

After reviewing the specific guidelines for this prestigious award, please send all applications for the JOSEPH F. KELLY MEMORIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD to:

Donald Farrell

16 Butler Place

Ossining, NY 10562

(914) 406-6510

Ofd2334@aol.com

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2022 FOR THE PRIOR YEAR'S RECOGNITION

Submitted by: Vincent Galvin

The Pawling Fire Department performed a Drive-By Birthday celebration on August 13th for one of its own Life Members, Chester Dalzell. Chet is a 76 year member, who celebrated his 97th Birthday! The 54 Crew stopped by to wish Chet a happy birthday. Chet is also a Life Member of the HVVFA.



On June 25, 2021 the Pawling Fire Department took delivery on their Pierce mid mount Pierce Ladder truck. its 76,000 pounds and 41ft and 7 inches long. There was a three-day hour class given on the operation of the new truck. On July 12 the 54 crew held their installation dinner and decided to get all dressed up in Class A to take a family picture in front of the new 54-45.



On August 6, 2021 the Pawling Fire Department celebrated their 125th Anniversary a year later due to Covid-19. At the celebration the Pawling Fire Dept hosted the DCVFA convention parade. There were nineteen companies in attendance along with marching bands. The winner of the Best Overall and 3-legged trophy was Rombout Fire Co. from Fishkill NY. The longest distant traveled and winner of the best antique was the South Hampton Fire Co with their 1912 American La France. It was great to see brothers and sisters marching again in the street.



The Dutchess County Fair in Rhinebeck celebrated 175 years this year. Throughout the decades the fair had many challenges. Now fast forward to 2021 The Firefighting Museum of Dutchess County now has a presence at the fair. This is the 3rd year that the Firefighting Museum has been invited to attend and it looks like it may be a permanent one. The museum is an educational one and also has a collection of vintage fire memorabilia. It's not easy to start a museum but one day the Firefighting Museum of Dutchess County will have a permanent home. The fair is a six day even with thousands of people attending. The children love coming by the Museum tent to see the vintage equipment and to sit in an antique fire truck. On their way out they can get a balloon or a fire hat.



Millerton NY FD 1892
Hose Cart, purchased
in 1892 for \$49.50.
Refurbished in 1990 by
the Millerton North
East Historical Society



Officers and
Directors on set
up day at the fair

On Tuesday July 13, 2021, the Dutchess County volunteer Firemen's Association held their 74th Annual Convention at the J.H. Ketcham Hose Company. Over 100 people attend this event included Elected officials Dover Town Supervisor Rich Yeno, State Senator Sue Serino, Congressman Antonio Delgado, Representatives from County Executive Marc Molinaro's office and Dutchess County Emergency Response Dana Smith's office. Certificates and flags were handed out to all who were celebrating years of service, by Fasny, HVVFA, DCVFA, office of county Executive Marc Molinaro, Dutchess County Emergency Response, State Senator Sue Serino and Congressman Antonio Delgado. The night was great Honoring Tivoli Chief Marc Hildenbrand as DCVFA Firefighter of the year. We also celebrated Chief Dennis McGuire 60 years of service in the fire service. In addition, we celebrated Slater Chemical for 100 years, Chelsea FD for 75 and Rombout for 50 years. At the end we celebrated 5 scholarship winners of the DCVFA Scholarships Tom Gallman Jr. Benjamin Leung, Joshua Brennan, Cassie Howard, and Karlie Klingner.

HVVFA Ladies Auxiliary**Submitted by: Diana Balling**

As I drive around the different areas, fall season is approaching! The leaves are changing! The nights are getting cooler and great for sleeping! We do know that it means that winter is fast approaching! Don't want to rush it but with the weather patterns lately no one knows what to expect!

By the time you read this article, Hudson Valley VFA Ladies Auxiliary will have met for their first meeting since convention. The meeting was at the Firemen's Home on September 19. The very next meeting will be Sunday, November 7th at Buchanan. Please watch your Chatterbox for more information on this meeting.

December Daily Drawing tickets are now available. Please contact Karen McDonald at KMcdonald@earthlink.net or give her a call at 518-477-4351. If you'd like to help sell these fundraiser tickets, please reach out to Karen. We welcome all to help us.

Some notable items from around the Valley:

Catskill Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting a Sub Sale on October 2. Time is from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. Pepperoni, Meatball or Sausage and Peppers are the varieties. Cost of sub is only \$10. So, if in the area, stop by the Catskill Fire House – 1 Central Ave – Catskill.

The Auxiliary of the Saxton Fire Company has two upcoming events:

****Penny Social** scheduled for October 18. Doors open at 6:30 pm and drawing begins at 7:30 pm. There are many different raffles as well as a special Merchant Table. Come and enjoy the fun. Location is 3853 Route 32 – Saugerties.
****Special 50/50 Raffle** to be drawn on Feb 11. Tickets are \$1.00 each or \$6 for \$5.00. See Diana Balling if interested. Her email address is dlb@megacity.org or call/text her at 845-389-7115. She can hook you up with tickets.

Margaret "Peg" Earl from Warren County who is a member of HVVFA LA is now residing at the Firemen's Home. I'm sure she'd love to hear from you. Why not send her a thinking of you card to let her know she's not forgotten!

HVVFA LA and LAFASNY teamed up with GCVFA LA to recognize the 25 year and 50-year members of GCVFA LA for 2020 and 2021. HVVFA LA Past President Karen McDonald and LAFASNY President Diana Balling (also a HVVFA LA member) presented a total of 12 certificates to dedicated auxiliary members. Below is a photo of Heidi McGarry accepting her 25-year certificates from both Diana and Karen.

Sullivan County Report**Submitted by: Ralph LaVecchia, SCVP**

Not too much has gone on in Sullivan County since my last article. Although with the COVID-19 restrictions being less strict there have been more pancake breakfasts being held by different fire departments. Sullivan County Firefighters Association had their parade on September 18th, 2021, which was held by the Grahamsville fire department to help celebrate their 75th anniversary. The Sullivan County Firefighters Association handed out Lifetime Achievement Award to Charile Wenier they also handed out awards to Timothy P Fink 2019 firefighter of the year and finally the 2020 firefighter of the year award went to Anthony Freeman, Brendon Cunningham, and Kristopher John Gwiozdowsk. A good time was had by all.

Ulster County Report**Submitted by: Lance Booth, UCVP**

I hope everyone is doing well. There are some upcoming events going on in Ulster County. On October 2nd we will have our parade in Napanoch. Line up for this parade is 1pm with step off at 2pm. Come join us and cheer everyone on. Also, some Ulster County departments will be marching on September 25th in the Orange County parade in Montgomery.

As many of you know the HVVFA convention and parade was supposed to be held in Wallkill in 2020 but due to COVID it couldn't happen. Well, great news, it's coming in 2022! Stay tuned for more news on this and when/where the events will take place.

October is coming up which means it will be time for fire prevention. Although fire prevention should be happening all year, we dedicate a week in October to really get the message out to schools and other places around.

Finally, many departments around are holding pancake breakfasts and other events such as chicken BBQs and Bingo. Try and support the events by attending or simply sharing to get the word out on these events.

Stay healthy everyone, hope to see y'all soon.

Dutchess County Report

Submitted by: John Pomarico, DCVP

Since my last report a lot of events are to take place around Dutchess County in coming months.

Congratulations to all fire companies celebrating their anniversaries this year, some will have their annual banquets or get-togethers,

I have been at meetings wherever they may be, going around to make sure I am known to all. I've attended fundraisers to support, I will not list them at this time, because I would still be typing my report until midnight.

I would like to thank Pawling Fire Department for stepping up to hold 2021's county convention. Congratulations to the trophy winners. As everyone that was in attendance witnessed Rombout Fire Department walking away with 3 - Best Color Guard, Least Demerits and The Bud Pottenburgh 3-Legged Trophy. They made it known that the awards were in memory of one of the Best Color Guard member that had passed away. His name was Steve "STICK" Stanulwich. As 2021 moves along hopefully the convention parades will be successful. Any help I can be to anyone my ears are there to listen, give me a call or e-mail I will be there.

On a sad note, I had 4 personal firefighter friends pass away recently

*Aldolf J Schetter- 50+ member - Slater Chemcial FD
Father, Grandfather, Uncle

*Steve Stanulwich- Associate Member/ Past President- Slater Chemical Father Grandfather Uncle
died Aug 15th

*Fred Orkent - Life Member / Past Captain City Of Beacon
Father Grandfather Uncle

*Joseph Hockler- Life Member/ Career Firefighter
City Of Beacon Father Grandfather Uncle

Don't Forget Remember September 11th where 343 were killed in New York City 20th Anniversary 2001-2021

Try to make any services to pay your respects to departed Firefighters



David Plauff, 50-year member of Skylar Heights Fire Company, receives recognition for his many years of service from HVVFA Past President Fred Pettingell. Also present (L-R) was Thomas With for FASNY and HMVFA President Butch Recchia

Westchester County

On Thursday, September 16, 2021 the Westchester Volunteer Firemen's Association held their annual convention in Ossining, NY hosted by the Ossining FD. The meeting started off with the education session with Chief Bobby Halton talking about Improving Fire Ground Operations. The session lasted about 90 minutes, was attended by over 150 people and was very informative. Next was the Memorial Service in which the Association remembered all those who answered their final alarms. Fire Fighter of the Year was awarded to Asst Chief Michael Scarduzio, CPT Dan Farrell, and Ex-Foreman Patrick Wheeler. Their heroic rescue of an individual from his burning home in June of 2020. FASNY President John P. Farrell Jr presented them with an honorable mention certificate from FASNY. The heroes were also presented with certificates from local leaders.

On Tuesday, July 21st, a dozen young people completed firefighter boot camp. This course was three weeks long, starting at 8:00 am till 4:00 pm, in the Summer! That can really be intense, especially with all those very hot days. Graduation day was the day they all were waiting for, that meant they had completed their task for graduation. At graduation the students were given a certificate of completion by their instructors and awards for all those who excelled in their training. Finally DCVFA was there to provide the class and their families with lunch, a certificate and a year membership to the DCVFA.

Congratulations to all the graduates.

Greene County Report

Submitted by: Robert Schrader, GCVP

Greene County Vol. Fireman's Association 133rd Annual Convention was held September 7 – 11, 2021 at the New Baltimore hosted by the Cornell Hook & Ladder Fire Company. On Tuesday Sept. 7th Auxiliary Dinner and meeting was held at the Firehouse on Gill Road. On Thursday Sept. 9th Men's Dinner and meeting was held at the Firehouse on Gill Road. The memorial service was held at 7:30 pm with Victoria Dichian reading the names of loss members over the last two years since the last convention. There were eight past presidents and fifty-one member names read with members of the respective fire companies/departments standing as their loss members names were read. Following the full reading, memorial certificates were picked up by representative from the fire companies/departments. The meeting was called to order by President Tyrel Sherman at 8:00. The Chairman of the Firemen of the Year committee George Stacey presented Firemen of the Year award to a member of the Palenville fire Department and Kiskatom Fire Department for rescuing a unconscious male from a house fire. Fifty Year Certificates were awarded to several individuals. Annual elections were held for the first time in two years. The following were elected to one-year terms:
 President: Donald Winegard – Athens Fire Department
 1st Vice President: Stephen Salluce – Cocksackie Hose 3
 2nd Vice President: Antonio Fuentes – Athens Fire Dept
 Recording Secretary: Jason Haines – Haines Falls Fire Co
 Financial Secretary: George Stacey – Athens Fire Dept
 Treasurer: Karen Schrader – Athens Fire department

Friday Sept. 10th Mardi Gras parade took place at 7:00 pm with country band Skeeter Creek playing into the night.

Saturday's dress parade with over 30 units in line lead by the county officers, followed by the United States 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band from Cherry Point, NC. Following the parade at 5:00 pm a joint September 11, 2001 memorial service was held in conjunction with the Greene County's Emergency Services. Marine Corp band played many music selections, several elected officials spoke, a number of prayers and remembrance were read. Past HVVFA president and present FASNY President and Greene County Emergency Services Director John P. Farrell help coordinate the event along with speaking several times. Much of the crowd were moved by the ceremony.

After the 911 service many trophies were handed out. Of all the companies that received trophies, one company (Haines Falls Fire Company) had a milestone by taking home six (6) for the first time in their history.

Finally in the last two weeks the County association, HVVFA, Blue Vests, and Athens Fire Dept loss long time member Garth Walker. Our prayers are with his family. Greene County Assoc. next quarterly meeting will be at Cocksackie Hose 3 at 7:30 pm on November 4, 2021.

Albany County Report

Submitted by: Butch Recchia, ACVP

The Albany County Volunteer Fireman's Association Convention meeting was held at Coeymans Hollow Fire Department on September 15, 2021. The Fireman of the Year award was given to **Bill Eck**, posthumously, who was nominated by Albany County Coordinator Jeri Perez and numerous fire departments in Albany County. The turnout for this event was huge just like it used to be years ago. It was a great time, thanks to all!



2021-22 County Vice-Presidents ... (L-R) Butch Recchia (Albany); Barbara Fischer (Columbia); Ken Askew (Schenectady); Dorothy Brown (Orange); Tara Scarduzio (Westchester); Nick Gatti (Rockland); Bill Mehan (Saratoga); Lance Booth (Ulster); John Pomarico (Dutchess); Vice-Chair Bob Schrader (Greene) and Chairperson LuAnn Edele (Putnam).
 Not shown: Victoria Dichian (Rensselaer), Ralph LaVecchia (Sullivan), Alvon Macauley (Washington)

12/21

Proudly serving our community for over 130 years

For Low-Interest Financing

Call (518) 943-2600

Don MacCormack (ext. 2109) or
 Joseph Rothrock (ext. 2098)

Bank of
 Greene County
 Community Banking at its Best!
 www.tbogc.com



Royal Order of the Blue Vests

Submitted by: Mike Cesare

Who are the Blue Vests?

In early 1972, a group of volunteer firemen from the lower Hudson Valley area were frustrated by their inability to join the **Royal Order of the Red Vests**, a social organization within the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. This frustration resulted in the formation of a new social club, the **Royal Order of the Blue Vests**. However, due to the circumstances under which the club was formed, the unofficial and commonly used name for the Blue Vests is "**Nut Busters**".

The purposes of the organization are: aiding the members at the Firemen's Home in Hudson, promoting the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association and promoting fellowship among the 16 counties within the HVVFA. To achieve these purposes, the membership of the Blue Vests meet four (4) times a year to transact the business necessary to help them fulfill these goals. Originally, membership was open to any fireman who was an active or exempt member of a fire department in the lower-5 county area who was a member of the HVVFA. Membership grew quickly as news spread about the new club, which also increased membership in the HVVFA!

The first public appearance of the **Blue Vests** was at the 1973 Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association Annual Convention Mardi Gras parade in Lake George. About 100 members turned out in their new blue vests & berets with the patch designed to signify the Nut Buster name. This Mardi Gras tradition has since become an annual event.

The **Blue Vests'** support to the Firemen's Home began with a Christmas Party held for the residents of the Home, with food, drink & small cash prizes to the winners and cards were given to each with a small cash gift. Since that first Christmas Party we have sponsored many other projects and events for the enjoyment of the Home Residents, including installing 3 horseshoe pits and a Bocci Court. We have our own **Blue Vests Day at the Home** held the Saturday after the HVVFA Convention. We have a yearly picnic, as well as an annual steak roast that all Home members are invited to attend, and our Installation Dinner, held at the Home, is also open to all Home members.

Over the years, the membership of the **Blue Vests** has donated thousands of dollars to the Home through different Fund Drives and the many events that we have had for the residents there. We have purchased special wheelchairs, many new TV's, partnered to purchase Big Red III in 1993, and partnered to purchase the heavily used Bingo machine. In 1999, due to some space changes at the existing Firemen's Home, it was necessary to build a new Recreation Room. This was funded by the **Blue Vests** and dedicated on June 26, 1999. The Recreation Room was named in honor of **Mr. Walter W. Eck Sr.**, Blue Vests Past President, Hudson Valley Past President and FASNY Trustee (*The Blue Vests' Recreation Room still exists to this day in the newly rebuilt Firemen's Home and is worth the visit when possible!*) Much more important than this is the many hours that our members have spent with the Home members.

The **Royal Order of the Blue Vests** has continued to grow since it was begun in 1972 and so has its commitment to the Residents in the Firemen's Home. Currently, if you are a volunteer firefighter or a member of a Ladies Auxiliary and would like to join the **Royal Order of the Blue Vests** and become an official Nut Buster, please contact Membership Chairperson George Hill, one of the original Nut Busters, at (845) 494-4975. We are always ready to welcome new members!

Rockland County Report

Submitted by: Ken Gordon, RCVF

DAY AT THE HOME VISIT

On Sunday, July 18 RCVFA members and Ladies Auxiliary made the annual Rockland-Westchester trip to the Fireman's Home in Hudson, NY. At that time, we presented the Home with a check for \$1,500 toward Operation Small Change at the Home for its members. Our thanks to the following fire companies who helped make that check possible: Hillcrest, New City, Mazeppa Engine 2, Jackson Hose, Orangeburg, John Paulding, Wayne Hose, S.W. Johnson, Volunteer Hose 2 and West Nyack.

WE MOURN THE LOSS

William "Bitsey" Rose died June 14. He was 93. A RCVFA Life Member, he joined the Association in 1952. Bitsy was a lifelong volunteer firefighter and held the position of ex-Chief of the Tallman Fire Department. He was an honorary member of nearly every fire department in Ramapo and surrounding area as well as member of organizations such as The American Legion, Mahwah Elks and The Forty and Eight. He proudly served on countless committees, enjoyed cooking at events and acting as a judge at fireman parades for many years. Bitsy was an accomplished athlete and was inducted into the Rockland County Softball Hall of Fame in 1987.

Nicholas Gatti Sr., two-time past president, died on July 30, he was 65. He was the current Orangetown Town Vice-Pres as well as the RCVFA County VP of the Hudson Valley Vol. Firemen's Assoc. Gatti was a life member of the RCVFA, having joined in 1984, and served as President in 2006-2007 and again in 2016-2017. He was a life member of the RC Fire Chief's Assn., Past-Pres of the NJ/NY VFA, Vice-Pres. of the RC Fire Safety Officers Assn. Ex-Chief Piermont FD, Past-Pres Empire Hose, and Vice-Pres of the RC Fire Police Assn. where he was currently acting president. His son, Nick Jr. is the current chief of the South Spring Valley FD.

Thomas H. Cass Sr., 53 of Wayne Hose Co. 1, Stony Point on July 28. He joined the RCVFA in 2012. He served as a firefighter and engineer for 14 years

Walter "Jake" Lubanty, died on Aug 2, age 82 ex-chief of Wayne Hose, Stony Point (1984-85) joined 1956, life member of RCVFA joined in 1966.

Robert "Bobby" Murdock Jr., died Aug 9, age 57. He joined Hillcrest in 1982 and made it through the line twice, serving as Chief once before from 1997-1999. In addition to being a two time Chief, Bobby also served as a Commissioner for the Moleston Fire District and was a Past President of the Rockland County Fire Chiefs Assoc, Rockland Assoc of Fire Districts, Life Member NYS Assoc of Fire Chiefs, Rockland County Fire Safety Officers, NJ-NY VFA, and RCVFA Life Member joining in 1988.

RCVFA MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

Wayne Hose has agreed to switch with Vol. Hose Co. 2 and take the 10/8 RCVFA meeting. Vol. Hose will now be hosting the 11/12 meeting.

RCVFA 25 YEAR LIFE MEMBERS

Louis C. Babcock, SW Johnson, West Haverstraw
John G. Erzen, Hillcrest Fire Co.1
Christopher Feroldi, Orangeburg Vol. Fire Assoc.
Luis Ferrer, SW Johnson, West Haverstraw FD
Lee Glick, Columbian Engine Co. 1, SV FD
John Johnston, Sloatsburg Fire Dept.
Robert Martin, Lady Warren, Haverstraw FD
Curtis Wicks, Wayne Hose, Stony Point FD

RCVFA 50 YEAR LIFE MEMBERS

James W. Garrison, Empire H&L, Nyack FD
George E. Gesner Jr, Suffern H&L, Suffern FD
Angelo Sama, John Paulding Fire Engine

FIRE FACTS

Back in 1869 on June 12th, Lady Warren Steam Fire Engine Company 5 was formed in the Village of Warren by a group of robust gentlemen from the brickyards. The fire company was later renamed to Lady Warren Hose Company 5 as was the Village of Warren renamed to the Village of Haverstraw. Today we turn 152 years old.

HV Legislative Committee

Submitted by: James Hartwick

Former Governor Cuomo approved the legislation in “Relation to the Uniform Fire Prevention & Building Code. “The bill amends the Executive Law to strengthen enforcement of illegal modifications to buildings. The bill creates a penalty of up to \$7,500 for a building owner who knowingly violates the code by impeding egress and should have knowledge of any alterations that violate the code. The law is further strengthened by including any architect, contractor, subcontractor, construction superintendent or agent thereof who has knowledge of a violation will be held liable, so it ensures full compliance. Hudson Valley VFA has sponsored this legislation for many years. Previously only the building owner(s) were held liable. Governor Cuomo indicated “the legislation will ensure more frequent inspections so that violations are caught before they become problematic and deters bad actors.”

Two very important bills on the FASNY Scorecard of priority legislation passed in the Assembly and the Senate and will now be forwarded to the Governor to approve or veto. “The Family and Firefighter Protection Act” which has taken eight years to pass, regulates manufactures in the use of chemicals in upholstered furniture, mattresses, and electronic enclosures. It recognizes that carcinogenic flame retardants pose a serious threat to our firefighters and children and banning these toxic substances from everyday items in our homes is a major step in keeping our families and 1st responders safe. Similar bans have been enacted in the States of California, Massachusetts, Maine, and Rhode Island. As noted by FASNY President John Farrell “The volunteer firefighters of this state are dedicated men and women and “It is now time for the NY State to show its dedication once again to our volunteers. Studies have shown these chemical flame retardants have no significant benefit to stopping fires, but instead release harmful cancer-causing chemicals when burned, increasing firefighter’s already high cancer risk. These chemicals have additionally been linked to health risks for children and pregnant women.” Hopefully, Governor Hochul, our new governor will sign the legislation. She is already being lobbied to veto the bill by the American Chemistry Council, the Manufactures of Furnishings, and the North American Flame Retardant Alliance. Along with the support of the volunteer fire associations and paid firefighter unions, additional lobbying efforts to approve the legislation will come from the National Resource Defense Council, Clean & Healthy NY, and the NAACP.

The second bill, the Volunteer Firefighters Benefit Law, (VFBL) provides an increase from \$450 to \$650 per week for those members with a temporary total disability resulting from an injury in the line of duty sustained on or after July 1, 2021. There is no retroactivity increase available for injuries prior to July 1, 2021.



HUDSON VALLEY VFA
PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL
AWARDS

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL AWARDS

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR ... EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR ... UNIT CITATION

DEPARTMENT NAME(S): _____

DAY/DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: _____

TYPE OF CALL - Please describe what kind of call – Fire or EMS - and the action(s) taken. Attach a detailed write-up of the Incident &/or Incident Report. (Attach add'l sheets as necessary)

Nomination letters are to be submitted on Fire Department or Volunteer Ambulance Corps letterhead and must be signed by either the Chief of the Department or the EMS Chief/Captain in charge of the incident. No exceptions.

Additional support, such as newspaper clippings, personal accounts, etc., is encouraged!

*Send nominations for incidents occurring between **Jan. 1, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2021** with this **completed application** and requirements as noted above to the Committee Chairperson no later than **March 1, 2022** for consideration.

Send to: LuAnn Edele, Chairperson
55 Meridian Drive, Brewster, NY 10509-3911
Cell: 845-234-3127 ... Email: luannedele@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR ALL QUALIFYING SUBMISSIONS IS MARCH 1, 2022

Orange County Report

Submitted by: Dorothy Brown, OCVF

Welcome Fall! Hope all members & their families are enjoying the Fall weather. I have been busy going to different meetings around the county. Most companies and departments are moving forward planning Fall events for their community.

Orange County Volunteer Firemen's Association Annual Day at the Home was held on August 1st. We had a great turn out. I would like to say thank you to OCVFA Ladies Aux. for their help and the men that helped cook all the food for the residents and members. Also, on that day we dedicated the plaques and the lights that the Association bought for the Home. On July 17th OCVFA was proud to recognize Donald Stillwaggon for 80 years of fire service to Cronomer Valley Fire Department at their Annual Award Ceremony, FASNY also recognized Donald that day. Donald turned 100 years old that day.

The OCVFA Convention week and parade was a great success.

It was by hosted by both Maybrook and Montgomery Fire Departments. The Memorial Service was held September 19 at Maybrook Fire Dept. where we remember our brothers and sister; George Halvorsen member Highland Engine Co #1, Gerald Jaeger Mountainville Engine Co #2. and Robin Kittner Warwick Fire Department.

At the convention meeting on September 23rd, we honored the following firefighters and fire department with awards:

Firefighter of the Year - Sparrowbush Engine Company: DC Jack Flynn, Cpt Chris Morgan, FF Kevin Fisher

Unit Citations - Cronomer Valley Fire Department and Middlehope Fire Department.

Also, at the convention meeting elections were held and the following officers for 2022 is follows:

President Ray VanInwegen
1st Vice President Gordon Healy
2nd Vice President Helena Grunwald
3rd and 4th Vice President vacant
5th Vice President Ryan Arcerio
Secretary Dorothy Brown
Financial Secretary Scott Arcerio
Treasurer Robin Reynolds



Putnam County Report

Submitted by: LuAnn Edele, PCVP

As the season's changed, so have a few things in Putnam. Some restrictions are being put back into place in response to this Fall's Covid strain, but not all, thankfully! We are still able to gather at firehouses, VACs, our training centers and even various 'civilian' events, like local concerts, where our County Fire Police Response Team gets involved.

There were many 9-11 Remembrance events taking place the weekend of the 11th, each amazing in its own right. The one co-hosted by our County Fire Association, along with the County Chiefs, Mahopac VFD and Mahopac Falls FD, was truly a beautiful testament to those who passed that day and in the 20 years since that event, and to those who are our first responders today. Funny how some of our newest responders weren't even born at that time, and yet so many of us can pinpoint exactly what we were doing when we first heard the news.

This month is, of course, Fire Prevention month and many of our local departments will be sponsoring Open Houses and classroom training (depending on the schools' guidelines that is!). Our County Association has provided each of its departments 'coloring calendar kits', an easy way to impress the 'what to do's' for fire safety!

Also happening in October, **Carmel Fire Department** will be hosting its annual Golf Outing on Monday, the 23rd, **Kent Fire Department** will be hosting its annual **"Trunk or Treat"** event on the 30th, and we already have advanced notice that **Putnam Lake FD** will host its annual **Holiday Parade of Lights** the first Saturday in December. It's a great event that the local departments and businesses get involved in. Not to go unmentioned, **Brewster FD** did hold a very successful 151st Anniversary parade on, what I gather, was the hottest day in August! (*I'm still sweating from that march, lol!*)

Please enjoy the start of our holiday season – yessiree, *Halloween counts!* – and stay safe and stay prepared for whatever comes next! Till we chat again, enjoy a warm & wonderful Thanksgiving!

East Greenbush photos –



2021 Scholarship Recipient



Karen McDonald presentation



East Greenbush at 2021 Greene County Convention



2021 Life Member's Day

Hudson Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association Legislative Conference September 26, 2021

The annual HV Legislative Committee meeting was held on Sept 26th in the community pavilion at the NYS Fireman's Home in Hudson. President Bob Outhouse called the meeting to order and after the invocation and pledge to the flag, recognized FASNY President John Farrell for a few words and introduced special guest State Senator Michelle Hinchey. He then turned the meeting over to Legislation Chairman James Hartwick to proceed with the agenda. Fifty-two officers and members were in attendance and the meeting lasted over two hours.

Our agenda began with a review of the 2021 FASNY Scorecard bills that passed both houses of the legislature and are pending Governor Hochul's signature or veto. The bills include:

- Amends the VFBL law to provide a weekly benefit increase from \$400 to \$650 for volunteers who sustain temporary total disability while in the line of duty. It's the 1st increase in 10 years.
- Enacts the Family & Firefighter Protection Act relating to the regulation of chemicals in upholstered furniture, mattresses and electronic enclosures which are cancer carcinogens. We are battling with the American Chemistry Council (ACC) and the manufacturers who are pressing the Governor to veto the legislation. We lots of allies who are lobbying for approval.

Other bills relating to the fire service that have passed and are pending with the Governor:

- Protect the wellbeing of New Yorkers by streamlining the judicial process to make it easier for municipalities to address violations of the building and fire prevention code. Currently only judges of the State Supreme Court are assigned that responsibility. The change would allow a judge in district or county courts to exercise jurisdiction.
- Adds Vascular Rupture incidents be included in the VFBL Heart claims that result in the death or disability arising from the duties and activities of a volunteer firefighter. This problem was discussed at our 2020 conference where the family of an officer of the Whitehall Fire Department was denied benefits for a vascular rupture resulting in death
- Establishes that telecommunicators involved in 911 incidents be designated as First Responders. It recognizes their significant responsibilities not just as an employee but part of the group various services designated as 1st Responders

Bills signed into law during 2021:

- In relation to the Uniform Building Code, the law strengthens the enforcement of illegal modifications. It includes a penalty of \$7,500 not only for the building owner but is expanded to include any architect, contractor, subcontractor construction superintendent or agent who has knowledge of a violation will be held liable so it ensures full compliance. HV sponsored this legislation for many years,
- LOSAP extension of time from 40 years to 50 years to receive benefits. 60% of the village or Fire District must agree to the extension and then local voter approval is required in a mandatory referendum
- LOSAP extension of time from 40 years to 50 years to receive benefits. 60% of the village or Fire District must agree to the extension and then local voter approval is required in a mandatory referendum

Recommendations for the FASNY Scorecard for 2022:

If vetoed by Governor Hochul, reintroduce the VFBL Increase and the Upholstered Furniture and Electronic Enclosure bill to address the reason of the veto. Also reintroduce:

- The Fair Play Cost Recovery for Fire Departments Operating an Ambulance Service. The bill will allow fire departments the ability to recover the costs when providing emergency medical services. In recent years, the inability to bill for the service has put tremendous financial strains on departments and districts which have resulted in discontinuing ambulance service. NY is the only state in the union which prohibits the fire service from recovering any costs for ambulance services. The bill in various wording has been languishing on the Scorecard for almost 30 years. We'll keep trying.

- Endangering the Welfare of 1st Responders. Establishes the crimes of reckless endangerment of an emergency service person in the first and second degrees, building codes exist to ensure that residents, and particularly first responders and emergency personnel, are protected from the dangers posed by fire and inferior construction methods. While responding to any emergency is dangerous, this is particularly so when a building has been illegally altered, usually to make room for more occupants. Firefighters and other first responders are put at significant risk when they enter a structure anticipating a certain layout and instead must navigate around with walls that, don't belong, narrow passageways, blocked entrances or exits, or other structural changes; all while battling smoke and flames. Far too often, these situations result in serious injury or death of firefighters and tenants living in the building.

Previous Recommendation & New Proposals Sponsored by Hudson Valley

- Amend the volunteer firefighters' benefit law to remove the 5-year sunset clause in VFBL and make the heart and lung benefit coverage permanent
- Sales Tax Exemption for Home Life Safety Products: advocate for an exemption of sales tax on sprinkler installations, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers as an incentive for purchasing these residential household items. (If unsuccessful, allow a sales tax moratorium in October as part of Fire Prevention month)
- Move to Budget
- Impaired Drivers Responsible for Emergency Costs: drivers convicted of driving while impaired where an accident resulted, and emergency services responded be responsible for paying up to \$5,000 in emergency response costs or as a recoverable insurance cost (California, Illinois, Michigan, Texas and Virginia have such laws)
- Community Heroes Protection Act: amend the penal law, in relation to designating offenses against law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel as hate crimes where serious injuries or death occur as a result of an intentional act.
- Employment of Retired Firefighters or State Retirees as Fire Science Instructors: authorizes retired career firefighters or qualified State retirees to be employed as fire science instructors at career and technical education centers (BOCES) without a reduction of their retirement benefits

Hudson Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association Legislative Conference September 26, 2021 – cont'd

- Unauthorized Photo Taking or Digital Transmission of a Deceased or Injured Person by a First Responder: Violation will result in a misdemeanor charge punishable by a \$1,000 fine or possible imprisonment for up to one year.(reference Joshua's Law in Connecticut and Cathy's Law in New Jersey and a law in California)

- Amend the general municipal law, in relation to Excluding the Cost of Cancer Insurance from the 2% Tax Cap. The law requires all fire districts and village departments to provide and maintain enhanced cancer disability insurance coverage for each eligible volunteer firefighter. To aid municipalities in securing these benefits, the State enacted the laws in 2018 which exempted the acquisition cost of these insurance plans from fire district spending limitations contained in the town law. Unfortunately, this bill did not exempt these benefits from the real property tax cap. Therefore, under the current law a fire district can spend as much money as it needs to acquire the enhanced cancer disability insurance benefits for volunteer firefighters, but any tax imposed to cover the cost of said benefits needs to fall within the 2% tax cap. This deficiency in the law places an undue burden on fire districts and forces departments to choose between the health of its volunteers and necessary services and equipment. This bill would amend the general municipal law to exempt any taxes levied by municipalities to acquire enhanced cancer disability benefits for volunteer firefighters from the real property tax cap.

- Amend the parks, recreation and historic preservation law, in relation to annual vehicular access for active volunteer firefighters and active volunteer ambulance workers. This bill would provide volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers, who earned LOSAP points in the prior year, free access to New York State Parks. (How do we show proof of LOSAP?)

Budget Monitoring: Continue to monitor the items outlined in 2021 budget for 2022.

- Adequate funding for 911 coordinating purposes
- A tiered increase to the volunteer income tax presently at \$200
- Training funding under OFPC including funding for training books
- Recovery of 54-G funding to support code enforcement efforts
- Need to discuss Emergency Service Low Interest Revolving Loan funding. Fund hasn't been utilized in the past few years.

At the end of the business session, Chairman Hartwick thanked Senator Hinchey for attending. She will be an ally for many of our concerns. The legislative committee of vice chairman Mike Karashay and members Paul O'Brien, Chan Rivera and Bob Schrader were thanked for their support. A special thank you was extended to George Stacy, Chairman of our HV Day at the Home Committee for the very fine coordination of the needs for today's meeting and the food afterwards. His coordination with the Fireman's home was exceptional. Everyone who was in attendance was also thanked for participating

Mike Karashay, chairman of the FASNY legislative committee asked that everyone use the Engage Program to indicate their support to encourage the Governor to sign the bills passed by the legislature. It is easy to use, and it gets the message out quickly.

Announcement: The FASNY Legislative Conference will be held at the Hilton Garden in Troy November 5th to the 7th. Hudson Valley will have a caucus on Saturday the 6th at 2:00 pm to discuss the proposed FASNY Scorecard for 2022 based on the recommendation of the other statewide sectional organizations. Make your reservations early and a special rate has been established so mention you are attending the FASNY conference.



**October 5, October 18,
October 20, October 25,
October 26**

Appropriate for all
emergency response
personnel, this training aims
to increase the level of
awareness of the hazards
faced by fire and EMS
personnel.

911 Remembrance Memorials from around the Valley



Pawling FD held their annual service in front of the fire house. Attendees included officers, members, DC Sheriff, American Legion, clergy and community members.



Fort Montgomery FD attended the Town of Highlands 9/11 Memorial Service.

Members of the Roosevelt Fire Department set out 343 flags to remember all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice on that day



The Village of Wappingers W.T. Garner set a memorial service for the victims of 911. The department even set up little flags for the woman who were pregnant and perished in the WTC.



On September 15th, Dan Shultz, a NYS Fire Instructor had his first graduation class of 20 students. It was a grueling four months for these students, but they were able to finish what they started. At this graduation they were presented their NYS Certificate of Completion by Instructor Shulz. In addition, the DCVFA presented certificates, a patch, and a year membership to the association by 1st VP Robert Boyles.

After the graduation ceremony food and refreshments were provided by the Unionvale FD and the DCVFA.

Congratulations to these new firefighters!



HUDSON VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
PAST PRESIDENT'S DINNER
Honoring Past President Michael Karashay



Date: Saturday January 22nd, 2022
 Time: 6:00 PM
 Place: Best Western Hotel
 503 Washington Ave
 Kingston, NY 12477

Cocktail Hour with Hors d'oeuvres
 Dinner
 Choice of Prime Rib, Chicken or Fish
 Cost \$85.00 per person
 Deadline for tickets Jan 7th 2022

Room Rate of \$129.00 per night including private breakfast
 Please contact the hotel at 845-338-0400
 Ask for Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Rate or use the
 following link:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.33159.html?groupid=A79ZK1J8

Please book your rooms early!

The link will expire on Jan 1, 2022, you may call the hotel after that date

Make Checks payable to HV Firefighter's Club
 Mail to:

Joe Mellan
 1635 Forestburgh Rd.
 Glen Spey, NY 12737

Please include your dinner choice!

HUDSON VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION
PAST PRESIDENT'S DINNER JOURNAL
Honoring Past President Michael Karashay



Black and White Ads
☐ Full Page Ad \$60.00
☐ Half Page Ad \$40.00

Artwork
☐ Please create an ad
☐ Please use enclosed artwork
☐ Please use emailed artwork
 Email Artwork to:
 ttotten001@hvc.rr.com

Organization Name: _____
 Contact Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____
 Contact Phone: _____
 Contact email: _____

Please print information

Make Checks payable to HV Firefighter's Club

Mail to:
 Tom Totten
 PO Box 14

White Sulphur Springs, NY 12787

Please send form and payment by December 15, 2021

If any Company or Department is interested in 100% Membership in the HVVFA

Please contact the Financial Secretary

Joseph Mellan, HVVFA Fin.Sec.

1635 Forestburg Rd, Glen Spey, NY 12737

Home (845) 856-2631 Cell (845) 741-5505

Email BC1.mellan@gmail.com

From the Desk of the Financial Secretary
100% MEMBERSHIP

Brewster Fire Department, Buchanan Engine Co. #1, Centennial Hose Co. # 4 (Peekskill), Highland Falls Fire Department, Highland Lake Fire Department, Hortonville Volunteer Fire Company, Kerhonkson Fire Company, Lake George Fire Department, Lake Placid Fire Department, Loch Sheldrake Fire Co. No. 1, Mahopac Fire Department, Maybrook Engine Co No. 1, Napanoch Fire Company, Queensbury Central Fire Company, R.A. Snyder Hose Co. No. 1, South Glens Falls Fire Company, Wallkill Hook, Ladder & Hose Company, Wassaic Fire Company, West Glens Falls Fire Co. No. 1, White Sulphur Springs VFD

HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER
EDITOR Fran Galu

TO: