



THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER

Volume No. 2018 Issue 05

April 2019

From the Desk of the President

Hope everyone is doing well with all the snow this winter. The Valley's next meeting will be at S.W. Pitts Hose company 226 old Loudon Road. Lunch will be served starting at noon. Meeting will start at 1:00pm. Per the by laws passed at the last convention, nominations of all officers will be held at the end of this meeting shortly before closing pray. Reminder to all candidates, please inform the Secretary, June Gunza, who will be nominating you and for what office you may be running for. Unfortunately, South Glen Falls Fire Department has informed the Association that they will not be hosting the 2020 convention. Anyone interested in Hosting any convention please let any officer know and the Convention Committee can provide, assistance and information on what it takes to host a convention. As a reminder to all Directors and County Vice Presidents, please hand in a report and give a summary of your travels. This way any one running for a higher office, will hear what you have been doing and sees how active you have been.

From the office of the Financial Secretary

The membership approved a by-law change at the June 2018 Convention which updated the Association's dues structure. Beginning with the 2019 dues billing the following changes will be made: Individual Member Dues will change from \$8.00 per year to \$10.00

Department/Company/Association Dues will change from \$10.00 per year to \$25.00

The dues for each member of a 100% Membership Department/Company will remain the same at \$6.00 per year and the organizations dues will still be complimentary.

For information on becoming a 100% Membership Department/Company contact me by e-mail at bc1.mellan@gmail.com.

It should be noted that this is the first increase to the Association's dues structure in twenty years and is necessary to keep up with the growing cost of doing business.

Joe Mellan

HVVFA Financial Secretary

LOTTO RAFFLE COMMITTEE

The Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association Board of Directors has changed the final submission date for the Lotto Raffle Committee. The new submission date is April 7, 2019.

Please contact the Association Officers, the County Vice Presidents, or the Chairman if you wish to purchase a raffle ticket prior to April 7, 2019. The annual Lotto Raffle number was started in January. The Lotto raffle for the year 2019 was successful. The total number of Lotto raffle tickets sold to date was 688. The Lotto Raffle Committee have suggested that the process for new raffle tickets for the year 2020 be started and that the new 2020 raffle tickets are available to the Lotto Raffle Committee by the annual convention. The Board of Directors and the County Vice Presidents will have the new raffle tickets to sell starting in the month of September. Please contact them if you would like to purchase the new annual raffle ticket(s), or if you would like to request a special number(s), or please contact the Chairman.

Michael A. Cesare, Chairman	Home 518 235-5251
32 Mazurki Court	Cell 518 441-8734
Cohoes, New York	CidMazur32@Aol.Com

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:

May 15, 2019 for the June edition!

You can send your information by e-mail to editorHVVFA@gmail.com or you can mail to **Fran Galu, 26 Laurel Lane, Highland Falls, NY 10928** (Questions? Call 914-475-3911)

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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:

May 15, 2019

EDITOR'S UPDATE -FRAN GALU

Dear Members,

Happy Spring! Finally, a few days where we don't have on a winter coat, gloves and a hat. This time of year is when we will all get out in the fresh air, do some yard work (or not), see our neighbors again, and watch for our flowers to come to life.

This issue is filled with a lot of great information, please share it at your fire department and send in additional emails for anyone who would like to receive this newsletter electronically.

I hope you all have a great time with family and friends until we meet again.

Respectfully,

Fran Galu

Editor

We want to remind everyone that Effective April 1, 2019, a new NY State law requires all **NEW** or **REPLACEMENT** smoke detectors in New York State to be powered by a 10-year, sealed, non-removable battery, or hardwired to the home. ... Homeowners and landlords must upgrade their smoke detectors before selling or renting homes and apartments in New York State.

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES



Smoke alarms give you an early warning of smoke or fire so that you have more time to escape from danger. A working smoke alarm cuts your risk of dying in a fire in half.

Here's how to stay safe:

Clean your alarms regularly with a hair dryer or with your vacuum's brush attachment. Dust and cobwebs can hinder the alarm's performance.

Press the TEST button on each of your alarms every month to make sure they're working properly.

Install your alarm at least 10 feet away from your stove to reduce the chance of a false alarm.

Install alarms on the ceiling or high up on an interior wall.

Place smoke alarms inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area and on every level of the house, including the basement.

Replace all of your smoke alarms every 10 years.

DID YOU KNOW?

✓ There are special smoke alarms for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. They use flashing lights or bed shaker pads to alert you.

✓ You can get special smoke alarms that are wired directly into your electrical system. No more worrying about batteries!



Funding provided through 2015-2016's Grant Program Directorate for Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program - Fire Prevention and Safety Grants

www.nysfirechiefs.com

This page is sponsored by

Past President William S. Buckmaster, Jr

Places to travel within Hudson Valley

April	6	VFPASNY Spring Meeting – Starts 9:00 AM Cronomer Valley Fire House – Newburgh – Orange County
	7	Hudson Valley VFA Quarterly Meeting S. W. Pitts Hose Company – Latham Albany County – Starts 1:00 PM
	10	Columbia County VFA Quarterly Meeting Chatham Fire Department – Starts 7:30 PM
	14	Westchester County VFA Quarterly Meeting – Starts 1:00 PM Riverside Hose Company No. 4 – Tarrytown
	24	Washington County VFPA Monthly Meeting West Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company – Starts 7:30 PM
	27	HVVFA Ken Merriman Fire Police Training Seminar S. W. Pitts Hose Company – Albany County – Starts 8:00 AM
May	2-5	VFPASNY 65 th Annual Convention Hilton Garden Inn – Watertown –Jefferson County
	15	Saratoga County Fire Police Meeting South Glens Falls Fire Station # 2 – Starts 7:00 PM
	25	Royal Order of the Blue Vests Annual Meeting & Picnic Firemen's Home in Hudson – Starts 11:00 AM
	28	Orange County VFA B-Monthly Meeting Dikeman Engine & Hose Company Goshen – Starts 8:00 PM
	29	Washington County Fire Police Meeting West Glens Falls Fire Company No. 1 – 7:30 PM
June	19	Hudson Valley VFA Pre Convention Meeting S. W. Pitts Hose Company – 9:00 AM Hudson Valley VFA Golf Outing Thunderhart Golf Course – Freehold Greene County – Stats Noontime Hudson Valley VFA Past Presidents Dinner
	20 & 21	Hudson Valley VFA 124 th Annual Convention S. W. Pitts Hose Company – 9:00 AM
	20	Royal Order of the Blue Vests Steak Roast & Royal Order of the Red Vests Steak Roast East Greenbush Recreation Area – Starts 3:30 PM
	27	Washington County Fire Police Meeting Pilot Knob Volunteer Fire Department – 6:00 PM
	29	Royal Order of the Blue Vests Home Day Program Firemen's Home in Hudson – 11:00 AM

FREE COLLEGE TUITION

Great news for volunteer firefighters in New York: the Firemen's Association of the State of NY, offers up to 100% tuition reimbursement at a NY community college by maintaining good grades and fulfilling service requirements in a volunteer fire company for up to 80 college credits – ultimately, an Associate's Degree.

Visit <https://fasny.com/resources/fasny-help-tuition-reimbursement-program/>

2019 Award Nominations

HVVFA FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chairman: Robert Fritsche

Send all applications for the **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD** to:

Robert Fritsche
40 Park Avenue
Ossining, NY 10562
914-519-8549
koachice@aol.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	Thomas With
103 N. Liberty Drive	34 Woodside Avenue
Stony Point, NY 10980	Colonie, NY 12205
(845) 742-0009	(518) 438-7486
	tomwith@hotmail.com

JOSEPH F. KELLY MEMORIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Chairman:

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

HVVFA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PLEASE NOTE:
ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2019 FOR THE PRIOR YEAR'S RECOGNITION

President Nick Madore

1st Vice President Yale Frank2nd Vice President Brad Gallotta

This page is proudly sponsored by:

The Royal Order of the Red Vests

Financial Secretary John Bootz

Treasurer Phyllis Dinkelacker

Recording Secretary George Stacey

EAST GREENBUSH REPORT**SUBMITTED BY: PETER LEHMANN**

In 2019, the East Greenbush Fire District No. 3 embarked on an unprecedented endeavor to better serve the taxpaying public of East Greenbush. Under the leadership of Fire District Chief Robert Lehmann, a plan was developed to provide duty crews to serve on a rotating weekly basis. Prior to implementation, meetings were held with members of the Fire Company to brief them on the new initiative to gain their input and acceptance. At their December meeting, the Board of Fire Commissioners embraced the new initiative and it was then put in place, effective December 30, 2018. The plan features a rotation among the District's three stations and apparatus assigned in each. The crew consists of a Chief Officer and a company of four members; an Officer, a chauffeur and two firefighters. The duty crew is in service from 10:00 pm until 6:00 am and is the first arriving apparatus to all calls within the coverage area of District 3. Surrounding mutual aide companies have been apprised of this service and thus East Greenbush is available to provide immediate mutual aide coverage as needed. This duty crew concept is the first such program in Rensselaer County and has proven effective since its inception.

COLUMBIA COUNTY REPORT**SUBMITTED BY: LAURA FOSTER, CCFV**

Happy Spring

As the warm weather gets here The Chatham Fire Company is gearing up to Host this Year's 94th Annual Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters' Association Convention in July.

The Events Start off On Thursday, July 25th with the Chatham Ladies Auxiliary Hosting a Wine and Cheese Party for All Auxiliary Members and Female Firefighters. The Association will Open their 1st Session on July 26th, at 7:30 PM at the Columbia County Fair Grounds and will conduct the business meeting and awards presentation. On Saturday, July 27th the 2nd Session business will be conducted, and the Parade will begin at 4:00 PM, the parade is in conjunction with the Village of Chatham's 150th Anniversary! The event will be a huge celebration with Fireworks at dark. There will be a Camping available at the Fair Grounds as well.

I look forward to seeing everyone at these events and the Hudson Valley Convention and Events in June!

Hudson Valley Royal Order of the Red Vests
Meeting April 28th @ 1:00 pm East Greenbush

First Annual Red Vests & Blue Vests Steak Roast
Thursday June 20th 2019 3.30-5.00 pm Appetizer
5.00Pm 12oz Steak or 1/2 BBQ Chicken
Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Cole Slaw, Dinner Roll
Includes beer, soda and water
The Cost is \$25.00
All Red Vests Members with paid up dues will be
Refunded \$15.00 at check in

President Yale Frank Jr.

Gender Neutral Legislation

Submitted by James Hartwick, Legislative Chairman

This bill will replace all instances of the words or variations of the words fireman or policeman with the words firefighter or police officer. The use of gendered language in reference to police officers and firefighters are antiquated and inaccurate. It also promotes a view that may suggest to some that the professions of law enforcement and firefighting are available exclusively to men or that there is something unusual about the participation of women.

We have many women who have joined the volunteer fire service and are trained to perform the same duties and assignments of the men. They are first responders that provide significant value to our volunteer ranks. The goal of diversification is not simply boosting the number of female firefighters, but broad inclusion of women in every aspect of our volunteer mission.

It is appropriate that the same level of respect and acknowledgment be given in the laws that govern the community that female firefighters and police officers risk their lives to protect.

This bill was signed into law by Governor Cuomo Quite a few years ago, Rockland County recognized the need to change and amended their By-laws to the Rockland County Volunteer Firefighter's Association and our acronym RCVFA remained the same. HVVFA initials remains the same, but would be Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association instead of Firemen's Association.

ROCKLAND COUNTY REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: JOHN KRYGER, RCVF

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

This has been a banner year for the Trumpet: first the newsletter turned 50 in March, and now the original Editor, Stuart Gates, turned 90 on Dec. 5.

His children held a surprise party for him at Beni's Trattoria in Garnerville on Sat., Dec. 1. It was well attended by his family and friends. He was very surprised, you could tell by the look on his face when he walked in the room. He was very touched by all the well wishes of everyone present and even those who posted greetings on Facebook. His birthday was posted on the RCVFA page, We printed out all the well wishes before leaving for the party, so that Stu could see them, as he doesn't have a computer.

One quote that stands out is "The man, the myth, the legend. The wealth of knowledge about the county's fire service is staggering." He kept saying that he didn't deserve these accolades, but we think he does and so do many in the fire service.

Some of the friends attending were Gordon Wren Jr., Tom Bierds, Tom Brown, Paul Schlegel and his wife, and Doug Mann and his wife. Tom Bierds took over 100 pictures and we hope to see them soon, He will be creating a book with the pictures for Stu to look at.

Best Wishes for another 90 years!

WE SADLY REPORT THAT:

Robert Kraft died Dec. 1, 2018, at age 86. Bob was a Life member of RCVFA joining 1959 and a past director, He was also a 68-year Life Member of Alert Hook, Ladder & Engine Co.1, Congers Long-term Chairman of Fire District and Past Pres. 1975. Life member Rockland County Fire Chief's Assn. and a past financial secretary, Past President Rockland County Fire Districts Assn., Honorary Member Rockland County Fire Police Assn., Life Member Southern NY Volunteer Firemen's Assn., Life Member Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Assn., Member Firemen's Assn. State of New York, Life Member NY State Assn. of Fire Chiefs (Joined 1972), Life Member NJ-NY Volunteer Firemen's Assn., Honorary Member Hugh Gassner Fire Co. South Spring Valley, Past Chairman Rockland County Fire Prevention Committee, starting the original baby sitters program, Past Member Rockland County Fire Advisory 2019 is also bringing about a change at the leadership for OFES. Chris Kear, ex-chief out of Hillcrest, has been offered and has accepted the position of Director of Fire & Emergency Services/44-1. Our long-time director Gordon Wren Jr. stepped down in April of 2018 and Chris Jensen, our Emergency Manager, has been the Interim Director since then. Mr. Jensen has done a tremendous job and has started the ball moving on a lot of different projects and we are grateful for his commitment and leadership these past eight months. Board, Trustee Rockland County Volunteer Fire Services Museum, Honorary Member Rockland Lake FD (1975-Present). Member NFPA - Fire Services Committee, Korean War Veteran

THREE GENERATIONS – VOL. HOSE CO. 2

On Oct. 4, 2018, Volunteer Hose Co. 2, member Jake David Kryger was graduated from the Rockland County Fire Training Center, thus becoming a trained member of the West Haverstraw Fire Dept. By doing so, he became the third generation of the Kryger family to serve Volunteer Hose Co. 2, WHFD. Jake is a senior at Albertus Magnus high school where he plays football, hockey and lacrosse. He is a member of the National Spanish Honor Society. His father, David John Kryger, started as a Junior member of the company, eventually rising to the rank of Chief of Department and served many years as a fire warden. David, a Sergeant with the Haverstraw Police Dept.'s Street Crimes Unit, retired from that position Jan.31, after a criminal justice career that included service on the NYPD, commander of the Rockland County SWAT Team, and active duty with 44-Control as a dispatcher. Jake's grandfather is John Kryger, a Chief's Aide and PIO of the West Haverstraw FD. He is also the financial secretary of Volunteer Hose Co. 2 and a Rockland County Deputy Fire Coordinator. He is a 21-year veteran of the FDNY who worked in Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Bronx. He is the current Chairman of the Rockland County Fire Advisory Board and corresponding secretary of the RCVFA. Like so many Rockland families (the Wrens, Healy, Wanamaker, Gordon, Kelly, Willows, Byrne, Ahlf, Arterburn Goswick, Bonkoski, Yannazzone, Conjura, Wicks, Doremus, Garabrandt, Gatti, and Wilson) to name just a few, the volunteer fire service is a generational tradition.

EX-COUNTY FIRE COORDINATOR DIES

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Spring Valley ex-Chief and RCVFA Life Member Donald Hastings on Jan. 4, 2019. Donald was a 70- plus-year member of the Columbian Engine Company 1 and a 58-year RCVFA member, joining in 1961. Don was also the RCVFA Firefighter of the Year in 1961. Don was a member of the Rockland County Fire Chief's Assn. and Life Member NYS Association of Fire Chief's and the NJ-NY Volunteer Firemen's Association. Don was a Rockland County Deputy Fire Coordinator and Fire Coordinator "44-1" from 1975 to 1991; Don was one of the founders of the Rockland County Helicopter Emergency Lift Program (HELP), NYS PIP Police Chief Edward Gleason was one of the co-founders, Tony Casimano, Don McGuire and others from the EMS, Fire and Police Service. The Columbians have stated that Don Hastings was their oldest living member. He was also an Active member of the Jefferson Maine Fire & Rescue. We wish our condolences to the Columbians, Jefferson Fire & Rescue and to the Hastings family. The funeral will be in Maine with a Spring burial. Job Well Done - May he rest in peace

ALBANY COUNTY REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: WALTER ECK, ACVP

Albany County News / Events:

Albany County has continued to experience numerous working structure fires in several cities and rural areas alike. There have also been numerous serious motor vehicle accidents.

In early February, Albany International Airport Firefighter (and North Bethlehem Fire Department Volunteer) Josh Woodward was admitted to Saint Peters Hospital in Albany for unexplained pain in his arm. Doctors determined that he had an infection that caused sepsis. Josh was in critical condition and sustained damage to his heart, kidneys, and gall bladder. As a result of the sepsis, Josh has lost several toes and a hand. Josh was released from Saint Peters on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. He will have to spend several weeks in a rehab facility and then hopefully, Josh will go home.

You can follow this story on Facebook – Woodward Strong. There is a Go Fund Me page where you could make a donation. They are trying to raise \$150,000.00 dollars. Josh will have a long recovery process and any help would be appreciated.

Annually, the Nathaniel Adams Blanchard American Legion Post 1040 hosts a community service recognition awards event. Each emergency response organization selects and submits a candidate to receive recognition for their outstanding actions and/or performance. This event has actually become the Firefighter of the year program for the Town of Bethlehem fire departments and emergency services. This is an opportunity for our personnel to be recognized on a much larger scale than would be afforded at a department meeting or installation dinner. Every year we acknowledge our well deserving personnel. These are the letters submitted this year.

From the Town of Bethlehem Police Department:

Officer Rico Forie was selected as the Police Officer of the Year for his continued commitment to the community and his excellence in responding to the emergencies and needs of the residents of the Town of Bethlehem.

From Delmar-Bethlehem EMS: (a portion of submitted letter)

Kristen Knights joined Delmar-Bethlehem EMS in 2016. She quickly became an EMT and set out to learn everything she could about being a pre-hospital emergency medical responder in our community. Kristen progressed to Crew Chief and began leading an ambulance crew each week. Those hours added up and Kristen was one of our “Top Ten” responders and spent more than 400 hours on call for emergencies during 2018. Kristen progressed to being a field training officer and took responsibility for mentoring new EMTs through their Crew Chief training. Her guidance has helped several new EMTs become Crew Chiefs.

Kristen was elected to the office of Lieutenant for 2018 and continues serving as a Lieutenant in 2019. In her capacity as a Lieutenant, Kristen has been the coordinator of our successful monthly continuing education class program. Kristen’s positive attitude is infectious and her commitment to serve sets a great example for the EMS squad. Kristen is the kind of EMT you want to meet when you are ill or injured. She is a credit to both our community and our profession and we look forward to having her with us for many years to come. It is our pleasure to recognize Kristen Knight.

From the Delmar Fire Department: (a portion of submitted letter)

Lieutenant Jason Bradt is serving his second year as a Firematic Lieutenant and has previously served the department as Vice President and Secretary. In 2018 Jason served as both Department Secretary and as Fourth Lieutenant, in charge of Squad 24. Jason has endeavored to serve the residents of the town of Bethlehem both as a volunteer and as a dedicated employee of the Bethlehem Highway Department. Previously, he served the City of Albany as a Public Safety Dispatcher. Jason works hard at providing an outstanding training program for our members and has been attending many training courses to further his abilities as a Lieutenant.

On Saturday March 24th, 2018, the Delmar Fire Department with mutual aid companies from Elsmere and Slingerlands fire departments responded to 388 Kenwood Avenue for a report of a structure fire. Lieutenant Bradt, amongst the first-in crew of fire fighters, found the seat of the fire on the second floor of the structure where they initiated fire suppression tactics and stopped further spread of fire throughout the structure. Lieutenant Bradt and his hose-line crew worked hard that day to limit fire spread and conduct salvage and overhaul with minimal damage to the structure. Ironically, the building at 388 Kenwood Avenue is believed to be the original Delmar Fire Department Firehouse from the early 1900s.

From the Elsmere Fire Co. A, Inc.: (a portion of submitted letter)

He is very involved in a new endeavor this year helping to create a bunk-in program to solicit additional members while they are away at school and assist our Fire Department as well as the Town of Bethlehem with extra manpower to protect our residents. He continues to work on this committee and is focused on its continued growth and success. Watch for more details in the future.

He was elected as a Director in 2007 and for the past 11 years has served on Elsmere’s Board of Directors. He began his 12th year in January where he continues to assist with the leadership and administration of our fire company.

As this recipient is retired, which is hard to tell, his dedication and passion for volunteering has kept his fire call totals in the top ten for our department for many years, including this past year. In fact over the last five to seven years he has been to nearly every major incident we have responded to during the daytime and has put out a lot of fires. He is a great leader, mentor, organizer, and a friend! It is my great pleasure to present this year’s award to this distinct member, please join me in honoring Past President John Murphy, as this year’s recipient of the Firefighter of the Year.

From the Selkirk Fire Department: (a portion of submitted letter)

Captain Wagner has always taken a strong leadership role in preparation for and implementation of our annual Glenmont Fair and the after-fair celebration picnic. At that picnic, on August 5, Shaun was doing what he always did, rolling up his sleeves and working as our burger-flipping, barbecue chef. Unfortunately, one of our invited guests was clearly choking quite badly on a piece of food. Shaun sprung from behind the grill, performed a textbook Heimlich maneuver, and, in the eyes of every witness to that event,

ALBANY COUNTY REPORT - CONTINUED

saved a life. All were impressed, no one was surprised. Shaun always “leads from the front”.

Recently, while leading and working on a clean-up detail at Station #2, a freak accident caused by a gust of wind caused Captain Wagner to fall two floors onto the pavement in back of the Station. Shaun’s recovery has been a remarkable testament to his strength and tenacity. The community’s and fellow firefighter’s overwhelming support of a fund-raising dinner for Shaun and family is a testament to the respect and admiration everyone has for Captain Wagner. Captain Shaun Wagner is Selkirk Fire Department’s well-deserved 2018 Man of the Year.

From the Slingerlands Fire Department(a portion of submitted letter)

I would like to nominate Barry Moss for the Firefighter of the Year. Barry has made significant contributions to the Slingerlands Fire Department and the Slingerlands Fire District. As treasure Barry has tirelessly organized our finances and has introduced many systems and efficiencies that improve the distribution of funds. I see him at the fire station most Saturday mornings working on the finances of the department.

As a line officer, Barry is cool and collected on the fire ground. His decisions are sound and he is a technically capable firefighter. He has continued to expand his knowledge by completing the Fire Officer I and Rescue Technician courses. I completed rescue tech with him and he takes the training seriously and gives 100% percent.

Barry is assigned to building and grounds as a fire commissioner. This position requires a great amount of work and dedication. As you can imagine issues come up on a weekly basis (e.g. broken ice machine, new stove, a lock not working etc.) These tasks require immediate attention and must be balanced between his paying job.

I applaud all of the recipients for their dedication and service. I also applaud and thank the Nathaniel Adams Blanchard American Legion Post 1040 for sponsoring this event and honoring our responders.

There are always a number of golf outings, BBQs, breakfasts, dinners and other fundraising events that will be taking place throughout the Albany County area. Please call me at 518-439-7973 if you have any interest and/or need information on event types, times, locations, etc.

**HVVFA LADIES AUXILIARY
SUBMITTED BY: DIANA BALLING**

Spring is just about here.....hopefully! With the April meeting fast approaching, the 44th Annual Convention will be here before you know it.

Dues notices have been sent out to all individual members owing past dues. Auxiliaries have been sent their delegate forms. Please remember to look at the bottom of the delegate form for your dues status.

If you didn’t get a notice, it doesn’t necessarily mean you are current. Remember dues notices are NOT sent out to those only owing 2019 dues. 2019 Dues card is yellow.

Currently there are no auxiliaries slated to be dropped for non-payment of dues at the June convention. However, we still have two members that need to pay their dues before convention or they will be dropped for non-payment. Their names are below. I ask the membership to reach out to these members. It is totally possible they are not getting the notices or are in a nursing facility. Our auxiliary does wish to drop anyone! Please help us locate these two members and get them to send in their dues:

Barbara Garaventa – Greene County
Olga Price – Sullivan County

Thank you for your help!

Look forward to seeing everyone at the Firemen’s Home on April 7th. Remember bring a friend! Encourage them to join!

**Happy Easter, may your holiday be full of joy
and happiness**

HV LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

SUBMITTED BY: JAMES HARTWICK

The Westchester County Volunteer Firemen's Association's legislative conference originally scheduled for March 3rd at Courtlandt Engine Co. in Montrose was cancelled due to a snow storm. On March 23rd the Ossining Fire Department hosted the conference at their Department Headquarters. The meeting was in conjunction with FASNY and the HVVFA and was an opportunity to discuss legislation with State Representatives.

State Assembly Members and Senators representing Westchester, Putnam and Rockland Counties were invited. Attending were Assembly Members; Tom Abinanti, Kevin Byrne, Sandy Galef and Ken Zebrowski. There were no Senators attending but staff members represented Senators; Carlucci, Harckham, Mayer and Metzger.

HVVFA Vice President and WCVFA President Jack Delaney opened the meeting and introduced the 8 legislative guests, the past and current officers of FASNY and HVVFA and acknowledged the fine turnout of 42 members.

Paul Zuber, legislative lobbyist for FASNY presented the Legislative Outreach Program which highlighted the following bills that were signed by the Governor:

- Fire Vehicle Lemon Law
- Cancer Insurance Costs Exempted from Fire District Spending Limitations

Qualifications of Fire Chiefs in Combination Departments with at least five Career Chiefs

Zuber and our HVVFA Legislative Chairman Jim Hartwick presented the Scorecard and Issues of United Concern. Each issue was presented with good background information and expressed some of the concerns in moving bills through the legislative process. A good discussion ensued on the following:

"Endangering the Welfare of a First Responder by Making Illegal Modifications" of residential buildings was discussed at length. Assemblyman Zebrowski, the sponsor of the bill discussed the particulars of the legislation and stressed that illegal conversions are a statewide problem. Landlords make conversions so they can make more money off the properties without obtaining proper permits and conversions frequently do not have proper ingress and egress which created extremely dangerous situations for the occupant and our firefighters. It was noted that freshman Senator James Skoufis who chairs the Senate Committee on Investigations and Government Operations has opened an investigation into housing conditions and code enforcement. Initially he is examining the City of Newburgh, Town of Ramapo in Rockland County, the City of Albany and Mount Vernon. This committee has subpoena powers and will help bring forth the need to

pass this legislation. Hartwick stressed to the legislators that they must get proactive with this problem and asked them to co-sponsor the bill "Modernizing School Fire Inspections and Reports for Private and Public Schools". Assemblyman Zebrowski is the sponsor and his bill last year passed but failed in the Senate. With a change in the majority from Republican to Democrats he will be working with Senator Carlucci on the bill. There was good input on this legislation from Mike DeVittorio who is a building inspector in Portchester and Chan Rivera's experience when he was a School Board member in Ellenville. This is a priority bill due to the high safety issues impacting students and faculty. This is a priority bill due to the high safety issues impacting students and faculty.

The other bills on Scorecard that were discussed included the Fair Play Cost for Fire Departments that operate an ambulance service

VFBL Temporary Total Disability Increases from the current \$400 to \$650 per week

The Upholstered Furniture Fire Safety Standards

Creating Career & Technical Education Pathways in the areas of Fire Protection & EMS. This would enable students to obtain training while meeting high school graduation requirements and possibly draw students to pursue a degree in Fire & Emergency Services in college

Budget issues were also discussed regarding increasing the Income Tax Credit from \$200 to \$400 and the Sales Tax Exemption on carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers. These are considered Home Life Safety Products.

Other issues briefly discussed were the diversion of 911 Surcharge Funds where it is reported by the Federal Communications Commission that 42% of the funds collected by the State are diverted to the General Fund which short-changes emergency Call Centers and prevents necessary upgrades.

Zuber also indicated that his firm monitors every bill introduced and there are some that we need to actively oppose. He cited a bill that would amend how the current 2% foreign tax funds are allocated. The Career Firefighters are always trying to get a percentage of the fund. Any reduction to the volunteer fire service will have a direct negative impact on funds for the Fireman's Home and could decrease the annual funds distributed to our departments.

Assemblyman Byrne discussed a proposed amendment to the Vehicle & Transportation law to allow blue lights on tow trucks. After discussion, Hudson Valley will send a letter opposing this legislation.

In closing, the Ossining Fire Department and the Westchester County VFA were thanked for graciously hosting the Conference. Everyone enjoyed the nice luncheon afterward.

This page is proudly sponsored by:
The Officers and Members of
The Royal Order of the Blue Vests



QUEENSBURY — C. Powel "Chet" South, 88, of Queensbury, passed away at home on March 21, 2019, surrounded by his loving family and friends. Friends may call upon the family from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, March 29, at Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Company, 17 Lafayette St., Queensbury, with a brief service being performed by the Queensbury Vol. Fire Co. and an association of others.

The funeral service will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, at the First Baptist Church of Glens Falls, 100 Maple St., Glens Falls, with the Rev. Stephanie Schneider officiating. Interment will follow at the Pine View Cemetery, Quaker Road, Queensbury.

On March 2, 2019 the Pawling Fire Department held their annual installation dinner. On that night the Pawling Fire Department honored Dennis Brunow for attaining the milestone of 50 years. In addition, Mike Carter 1st Vice President of the DCVFA and County Vice President for the HVVFA gave out proclamations honoring Dennis Brunow for his 50 years from the DCVFA, HVVFA, FASNY and the state.



Firemen's Assoc. Rep. Mike Carter recognizing President Dennis Brunow 50 Yrs. Serv. 3-2-19

The State DEC is sending a reminder to citizens that residential brush burning will be prohibited between March 16 and May 14.

With temperatures warming up, the DEC says wildfires can start and spread easily thanks to the presence of dead grass and fall debris. Windy weather and a lack of green vegetation could make things worse.

"While many people associate wildfires with the western United States, the start of spring weather and the potential for dry conditions increases the risk for wildfire in New York," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said in a statement Tuesday. "New York prohibits residential burning during the coming high-risk fire season to reduce wildfires and protect people, property and natural resources. The ban has been extremely effective in reducing the number of wildfires, and we're encouraging New Yorkers to put safety first."

ROYAL ORDER OF THE BLUE VESTS SUBMITTED BY: MIKE CESARE

Napanoch Fire Company -January Blue Vests Meeting

The Napanoch Fire Company in Ulster County hosted the Royal Order of the Blue Vests meeting on January 27, 2019. The registration started at 11:00 AM with many members arriving earlier. President Buckmaster stated that a Board of Director's meeting is not necessary and that the business meeting will be starting promptly at noontime. President Buckmaster mentioned that many of the Blue Vests members will have a long travel time home and that they should be home in time to have a long overdue nap. Past President Mr. Santo S. 'Chan' Rivera announced that the refreshments are ready and that the membership should partake now instead of waiting until the Business meeting has ended.

President Buckmaster opened the business meeting at noontime. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant at Arms Mr. George F. Stacey. The Invocation was made by Chaplin Mr. Frederick A. Van Loan and was followed by a moment of silence for our departed members. President Mr. Jim Wynkoop of the Napanoch Fire Company welcomed all in attendance. Secretary Mrs. Phyllis Dinkelacker read the minutes from the October meeting. The Committee reports included the Royal Order of the Blue Vests Annual Christmas Home Day Program (Dec. 15), the March meeting that will be hosted by the Brewster Fire Department (March 10), the Annual Elections & Picnic meeting hosted by the Firemen's Home in Hudson (May 25), the Annual Steak Roast outing that will be hosted at the East Greenbush Fire Company Recreation Area in East Greenbush (June 20), the Blue Vests Day at the Firemen's Home in Hudson (June 29), and the Blue Vests installation banquet that will be hosted by the Firemen's Home in Hudson (Sept. 21). Chairman Michael Cesare discussed the status of the December raffle tickets and thanked everyone who is selling the raffle tickets. Chairman Cesare announced that our special anonymous member purchased 72 raffle tickets for the month of March. The raffle tickets were included within the Christmas cards to each resident in the Firemen's Home. Chairman Cesare is looking for a member to serve as the Chairman of the Fund raising Committee starting in the year 2020. President Buckmaster thanked the Committees for their reports and especially Messrs. Jim Coons, George Harp, George Stacey, and George Hill for their many years serving on the Christmas Home Day Committee. Fin. Sec./Treas., Mr. George H. Hill, reminded everyone that he has started collecting the 2019 Annual Dues. Please pay your dues promptly.

FASNY Trustee, Mr. Walter W. Eck Jr., discussed the many new changes that have been made to the Firemen's Home, announced that there are currently 72 residents in the Firemen's Home, stated that there are four new applications that will be processed on Friday,

and thanked the Blue Vests for their continued support to the residents in the Firemen's Home. FASNY Executive Board Director, Mr. Santo S. 'Chan' Rivera, discussed the status of the FASNY awards that must be submitted to FASNY on or prior to March 15, the FASNY convention will be in Syracuse in the year 2019, and that the FASNY annual convention will be in Westchester in the years 2020, 2021, & 2022. Hudson Valley VFA President Mr. Fred Pettingell stated that the next Hudson Valley VFA meeting is scheduled on April 7, that the meeting will be hosted by the S. W. Pitts Hose Company, the annual Ken Merriman Fire Police Seminar is scheduled on April 27, and will be hosted by the S. W. Pitts Hose Company. Mr. William W. Eck Jr. announced that the Hudson Valley VFA Haz-Mat seminar will be hosted by the Athens Volunteer Fire Department on March 30.

Under New Business, A motion was made and passed to sponsor one hole in the golf tournament. Mr. Yale Frank discussed the status of the joint annual outing with the Royal Order of the Red Vests. President Buckmaster discussed the many changes that were required for the removal of the Office of the Third Vice President in the By-Laws. These changes will be voted upon at the meeting in Brewster. President Buckmaster appointed three members to the Audit Committee and reminded the Audit Committee members that the Audit will be starting at 10:00 AM in Brewster and to be on time.

Under Good & Welfare, Junior Past President Mr. Edward V. Butler Jr. announced that FASNY Executive Board Director Mr. Santo S. 'Chan' Rivera will be finishing his second five year term as Director in 2019. A testimonial dinner for Mr. Rivera is scheduled on September 28 at the Best Western in Kingston. Junior Past President Butler also announced that Mr. Santo S. 'Chan' Rivers is a candidate for the Office of the Second Vice Pres in FASNY in the year 2020. It was mentioned that a member celebrated his birthday on Jan. 26. Mr. William C. Rosenhagen announced that his birthday was on Jan. 26. Mr. Rosenhagen celebrated his 39th birthday for the 31th time. A special birthday cake was delivered to Mr. Rosenhagen for the enjoyment of all in attendance.

Pres Buckmaster then called for the drawing of the winning 50/50 ticket. The winning (and very lucky) member this meeting was Past President Mr. Harry M. 'Roadkill' Barrett. As always, there were a lot of "Boo's & Hiss's" from all of the unlucky ticket buyers. President Buckmaster reminded the membership that the March meeting is for the nomination of the new Chair Officers and that the business meeting will be starting at noontime. President Buckmaster presented Mr. Jim Wynkoop with a certificate of appreciation for having the Napanoch Fire Company hosting the January business meeting.

The Benediction was made by Chaplin Mr. Frederick A. Van Loan. Refreshments were available before and after the meeting. Everyone was welcome and the refreshments were delicious. A special Thank You goes to the members of the Napanoch Fire Company for hosting the January meeting, for their wonderful hospitality, and for the great refreshments.

PUTNAM COUNTY REPORT**SUBMITTED BY: LUANN EDELE, PCVP**

Happy Spring! Though I write this as large snowflakes are passing my window, I'm confident that by the time you're reading this there'll be crocuses & daffodils in someone's garden!

This is the time of year Putnam's Departments and VACs have most of its installation dinners and our County Association is no different. In fact, we're looking forward to this year's event which takes place on April 12th where **Pres. Jim Croughan** from Mahopac FD will be installed for his second term, as well as most of the desk officers. We will be presenting several awards that night (*Firefighter, EMS and Civilian of the Year*), as well as at least one Scholarship – so exciting!

Speaking of which, the **Brewster Fire Department** will have its annual installation dinner on Sat., April 6th and will be honoring several Years of Service recipients, two 50-year members and one 40-year who will be in attendance. A separate Years of Service event will be held July 13 to recognize the remaining BFD milestone achievers, including a 60-, two additional 50- and several 25-yr recipients. Between the two events, there'll be **450 combined years of service!** Amazing dedication at the Brewster FD and definitely noteworthy for our County's newsletter, The Blue Light! Stay tuned!

The **PCVFA's** annual Memorial Service on March 25th at Mahopac FD was a fitting and respectful bell service, complete with bagpipes, Taps and full dress uniform, which preceded our membership meeting. This year, as with most, there were many members and guests in attendance, a turnout those who passed surely would have been impressed by.

The **Carmel FD Auxiliary** is hosting its annual Pasta Night (*Sat 4/6*) and "Linky's Chicken n Biscuits" (*Sat 5/11, in honor of Past Pres. Linky Copland*) and, advanced info!, our **PCVFA Ladies Auxiliary** will be hosting the Ladies Auxiliary HVVFA on November 3rd. **Putnam Lake FD** and its **Auxiliary** are very busy with fundraising efforts on behalf of **Deputy Chief Mike Ercole**, who unexpectedly experienced a critical medical emergency. Chief Ercole is recovering slowly and thankfully, but has a long road of rehabilitative therapy ahead of him. The outpouring of support from all over the region has been overwhelming and so greatly appreciated by all.

Last, we look forward to opening the County Home Day Season on Sunday, May 5th when Putnam County VFA visits the Firemen's Home to spend the day with the members there!

Have a wonderful Spring everyone and we'll catch you again next issue!

GREENE COUNTY REPORT**SUBMITTED BY: YALE FRANK, GCVP**

Greene County next quarterly meeting, 5/2/19 @7:30 pm
To be held in Hunter, NY

Greenville Fire Company 2019 Officers

President-Cliff Powell
Vice President-Matthew Rice
Secretary-Emily Connolly
Treasure-Fran Sickles
Deputy Treasurer-Frank Boertlein
Sgt at Arms Stewart-Ted Nugert
Parade Captain-Marjorie Perezella
Ex Board 3 Year Term Brian
Chief Clifton Powell Jr.
1Asst-Cliff Powell Iii
2Asst-Kip Drollette
3 Asst-Andrew Johnnanesen
Captain -Matthew Rice
Lt.-Daniel Halstrom
Lt.-Emil Lang
Fire Police Captain-Rory Vanduesen
Lt-Lucy Materson



Firefighters, police and government officials gathered in Poughkeepsie Thursday night to honor D. Sandy Williams, a man known as the "Father of 911" in Dutchess County and beyond.

Williams served as Dutchess County Deputy fire coordinator for 46 years until his retirement in 2018. He also served as chairman of the original citizens' advisory committee and later the 911 oversight committee.

Williams was tasked with establishing the county's 911 system in 1994 by then-County Executive William Steinhaus.

The owner of Williams Lumber and former chief of the Rhinebeck Fire Department didn't hesitate to take the assignment and working diligently with people he calls a great team" to achieve the monumental task of coordinating addresses, many of which had to be changed, along with the thousands of phone lines, including major phone banks at facilities like IBM to bring the 911 County Executive Marc Molinaro chose Thursday evening

to dedicate the Dutchess County 911 Communications Center in honor of Williams. Molinaro called him "a steward. Somebody who understood fire service, recognized the importance of the sacrifice these men and women make every day and understood the technical aspects of implementing 911."

Molinaro said many people in Dutchess County take the ability to call 911 for granted. Through the work of Williams and the team, the first call received by county 911 was received on October 12, 1999. Today, the call center receives an average of 250,000 calls per year.

"What you helped shepherd into Dutchess County has saved countless lives, enabled countless miracles, and has provided for the safety and security of Dutchess County residents, families and businesses," the county executive told Williams who then received a standing ovation for the honor.

Former Emergency Response Coordinator Dewitt Sagendorph, who was at the helm when the 911 system was developed, called it "one of the greatest historical changes in Dutchess County."

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MUSIC,
FOOD &
DANCING

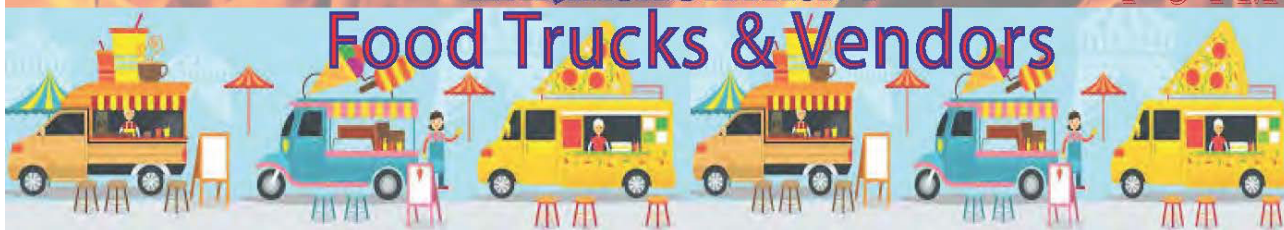


JOIN US APRIL 27, 2019 FOR A
COMMUNITY EVENT / OPEN HOUSE
WARWICK STATION 1

Food Trucks & Vendors



FIRE
TRUCKS
AND
DEMOS
1-6 PM



HVVFA ANNUAL PAST PRESIDENT'S DINNER WEEKEND

The HVVFA Annual Past President's Dinner was held on Saturday January 26, 2019 at the Best Western Plus Hotel in Kingston, NY. The weekend began on Friday with many HVVFA Officers and members arriving for the event. Friday night found the members present gathering in the Hospitality Room for fellowship and a good time.

Additional members started arriving on Saturday morning when several HVVFA Committees held meetings. The winter Board of Directors meeting was held at 1 PM during which Officers and Committee reports were given and the business of the HVVFA was conducted.

Saturday evening's events began with Mr. Click It (Vinny Galvin) taking pictures of current Officers of the Association and the Ladies Auxiliary as well as all the gathered Past Presidents. The cocktail hour began at 5:30 PM with plenty of fine adult beverages and hors d'oeuvres. Then at 7 PM all of the Past Presidents in attendance were each introduced to the assembled dinner audience and escorted into the dining room. The traditional introduction of guests from FASNY occurred, as well as customary welcoming speeches. Then a delicious buffet dinner was served. After dinner honoree and junior Past President Tom Totten was presented with numerous gifts from various Organizations and Members in honor of his term as President of the HVVFA. Then the dinner concluded with President Fred Pettingell presenting Tom with his past president firemen's trumpet. Tom wishes to extend his thanks and appreciation to all who attended as well as his Dinner Committee.

After dinner many continued to party in the Hospitality Room until the wee hours. Sunday morning saw everyone enjoying breakfast then bidding adieu and returning home.

The 2019 Past President's Dinner Committee consisted of Nelson Durland, Bill Buckmaster, Harry Barrett, Joe Mellan, John Cassidy, Sr., Jack Halchak, Bob Boddie, and Tom Totten.





HVVFA Fire Police Committee proudly
presents the
**2019 Annual Ken Merriman
Fire Police Training
Seminar**

April 27, 2019

8:00 am Registration – 8:45 am Start

LUNCH provided by Latham FD - \$10.00

*Latham Fire Department
226 Old Loudon Road
Latham, NY 12110*

"Seminar Presentations"

"Radiation" - Kevin Barkley, Sr.

- Saratoga Co. Dep. Fire Coordinator, CAR #6

"Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Law" – Timothy Graves

- Fire Protection Specialist, DHSES/OFPC

"FirstNet" – Frederick Hinrichsen

- FirstNet Principal Consultant

"Drones: The New Crash Investigation Tool"

- T-Lt. Daniel Bates, Div. Traffic Services, NYSP

"Unmanned Aerial Systems" - Speaker TBD

Pre-Registrations send name of FD and attendees to either:

Tom With: tomwith@hotmail.com / Douglas Mann: mmr103liberty@aol.com

**FRIDAY'S
DURING LENT**

5:00PM -
8:00PM

EAT IN
TAKE OUT
DELIVERY

Penne Served with your choice of 4 Homemade sauces



1. ALA VODKA

2. MARINARA

3. ALFREDO

4. MEAT SAUCE
(for those who don't celebrate)

\$10
ENOUGH
FOR 2
PEOPLE



HAND FILLED
CANNOLI \$4.00



SFOGLIATELLA
\$3.00

Desserts

(845) 896-6613

1132 MAIN ST, FISHKILL, NY 12524





Application for Membership
Hudson Valley
Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.

To the Financial Secretary:

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Fire Dept. or Co. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

County of _____ E-Mail Address _____

Hereby makes an application for membership in the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association.
Organization dues are \$25.00 and individual dues are \$10.00 per year.

Date _____

Proposed By _____

(Signature of Presiding Officer or Secretary of Organization
or signature of an Individual Member and HVVFA Member)

Make checks payable to Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department, association of volunteer or exempt volunteer firemen and any active or exempt volunteer fireman who is serving or who may have served in any such company or department in the territory in which the operations of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc., are authorized to be conducted.

Each member organization annually chooses one delegate to represent it at the convention of the Association. Delegates so chosen may continue as individual members by payment of annual dues of \$ 10.00.

Send this application with remittance, to the Financial Secretary of the Association, at the address shown below.

Joseph Mellan
Financial Secretary
Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Assn.
1635 Forestburgh Road
Glen Spey, NY 12737-5254

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 2018

Brewster Fire Department, 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, Napanoch Fire Company, Queensbury Central Fire Company, R.A. Snyder Hose Co. No. 1, South Glens Falls Fire Company, Wallkill Hook, Ladder & Hose Company, West Glens Falls Fire Co. No. 1

HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER

EDITOR Fran Galu

26 Laurel Lane, Highland Falls, NY 10928

TO: