



THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER

Volume No. 2019 Issue 04

February 2020

To keep everyone up to date, the last several months have been a little tough with our Recording Secretary June Gunza coming down ill and Past President Chan Rivera having surgery. I wish them both a speedy recovery. We also had the untimely passing of Past President Bill Buckmaster, our condolences to the family.

Our quarterly meeting was held on January 25th at the Hilton Gardens Inn in Troy along with the testimonial dinner for Past President Fred Pettingell. It was a good and a well attended dinner. Congratulations to Past President Pettingell for a job well done.

Once again, next years' Convention and **PARADE** will be held in Ulster County in the Hamlet of Wallkill. The meetings will be held 6/18 and 6/19 starting at 09:00 at the Walden Firehouse. Friday night there will be a Mardi-Gras Parade (theme being "Luck of the Irish"), and the Dress Parade will be Sat. 6/20. Director Eric Orr and his committee, as well as our convention committee continue working endlessly on this. It should be a great convention. progress.

REMINDER: Applications for the Presidential Award are due March 1 Please contact Director Ed Butler. Also, Applications for the Lifetime Achievement Award are due at the same time please contact Chairman Rick Dillon.

Next meeting will be 1:00 on April 19th at the Wallkill FD.

Hope to see you all there.

Stay Safe,
President Jack Delaney



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

New York State will be offering the civil service exam for the title of:

FIRE PROTECTION SPECIALIST

This position staffs the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The Office provides a wide variety of services to the firefighters, fire departments, local governments, and the residents of the State. As a leader in the fire service, OFPC's programs include the delivery of firefighter training, public education, fire investigation, safety inspections, technical rescue and hazardous materials response.

We are committed to making New York State safer and the fire service better and more prepared for the next emergency.

Candidates for this position can expect a satisfying career that is rewarding, constantly changing, and has a lasting impact on the fire service. We offer the opportunity to experience all aspects of the fire service.

The Fire Protection Specialist exam has been tentatively scheduled for **March 14, 2020**. Sign up is set to begin on Dec 27, 2019 and will close on Jan 29, 2020.

www.dhss.ny.gov/ofpc/employment



Full story a www.governor.ny.gov/news/

The New York contingent of building inspectors consists of 19 experts from the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, as well as six from the Department of State, who are trained to assess buildings and facilities that have suffered damage from disasters and emergencies.

As part of this deployment, the building inspection team will be tasked with inspecting a portion of the Island's 35,000 damaged buildings. Once in Puerto Rico, inspectors will be dispatched to locations in need of inspections and report findings back to Puerto Rico Planning and Housing Authority Officials. During each inspection, the New York team members will look for things that may impact the structural integrity of buildings such as leaning walls, compromised supports, severe stress cracks, and other criteria that would limit the use of a building until it can be rendered safe for occupancy.

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:

March 15, 2020 for the April 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)

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT JACK DELANEY SR

VICE-PRESIDENTS

1st VP Michael Karashay 2nd VP Robert Outhouse

Recording Secretary

June Gunza

Financial Secretary

Joseph Mellan

Treasurer

Harry Barrett

Jr Past President

Fred Pettingell

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Editor Fran Galu, Chairperson

Michael Cesare, Wm Rosenhagen, Nancy Ferretti, Susan Mehan and all County VP's.

Liaison to Ladies Auxiliary HVVFA

Diana Balling

ADVERTISING RATES

*All rates are per issue**

Business Card - \$25

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Quarter Page \$40

Full Page - \$125

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

Memorial/Sponsor Page donations \$100

Our next deadline is:

March 15, 2020

Editor's Update -Fran Galu

Hello everyone,

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. I can't believe it is already February of 2020, time really does fly by.

You will see in this edition that I have added some information about our NY State Fire staff. On the front page you noticed that there is a test coming up for anyone that is interested in joining the State Fire team, and also an article regarding the deployment of staff members to Puerto Rico. Later in the issue you will see a sample letter that you can send to your state senator regarding a bill that was sponsored by our friend – Senator James Skoufis – regarding disability benefits for this fine group of men and women. I hope that you will take the time to send a letter or email in support of the bill.

A reminder to send in your news, we can only share what we know about.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Valentine's Day, and a safe and happy couple of months till we publish the next edition of the FireFighter.

Respectfully,

Fran Galu
Editor

Proudly serving our community for over 130 years

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Joseph Rothrock (ext. 2098)

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Past President William S. Buckmaster, Jr.

May you Rest in Peace

Places to travel within Hudson Valley

Feb	7 – 9	FASNY Winter Games Greek Peak Mountain Resort, Cortland
	14	Rockland County VFA Monthly Meeting David B. Roche Volunteer Fire Company Thiells – Starts 7:30 PM
	26	Washington County VFPA Monthly Meeting Middle Falls Fire Department – Starts 7:30 PM
March	13	Rockland County VFA Monthly Meeting Excelsior Fire Engine Company Pearl River – Starts 7:30 PM
	15	Royal Order of the Blue Vests Spring Meeting Officer Nominations – Brewster Fire Department Putnam County – Starts Noontime
	21	Albany County VFA Legislative Breakfast S. W. Pitts Hose Company – Starts 8:00 AM VFPASNY Fire Police Training Seminar Montour Falls Fire Academy – Starts 9:00 AM VFPASNY Spring Meeting – Starts 8:00 AM Montour Falls Fire Academy
	25	Washington County VFPA Monthly Meeting Kingsbury Volunteer Fire Company No. 1 - 7:30 PM
	28	HVVFA Haz Mat Training Seminar Athens Volunteer Fire Department – Starts 8:00 AM Greene County
April	8	Columbia County VFA Quarterly Meeting Stuyvesant Fire Company – Starts 7:30 PM
	17	Rockland County VFA Monthly Meeting Blauvelt Volunteer Fire Company Blauvelt – Starts 7:30 PM
	19	Hudson Valley VFA Quarterly Meeting Wallkill Hook Ladder & Hose Company Wallkill Ulster County – Starts 1:00 PM
	24	Washington County VFPA Monthly Meeting West Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company – 7:30 PM Greene County

Happy
Valentine's
Day

2020 Award Nominations

HVVFA FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chairman: Ed Butler, Jr

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

Ed Butler, Jr

55 Meridian Drive
Brewster, NY 10509
(845) 494-2497

depchfuggybear@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

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: Rick Dillon

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

Rick Dillon

108 Irish Cape Road
Napanoch, NY 12458
catfirerick@aol.com

PLEASE NOTE:
ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE
RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2020 FOR
THE PRIOR YEAR'S RECOGNITION

East Greenbush Report Submitted by: peter lehmann

East Greenbush Fire Company Installs Officers

The gala 104th Annual Installation and Inspection of the East Greenbush Fire Company was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, New York on a snowy Saturday January 18, 2020. The traditional inspection of the members was performed by the Chairman David Cook of the East Greenbush Fire District No. 3. The evening's Invocation was offered by Past Commissioner Christopher Linck. 2020 is a significant year in the Fire Company with the election of the first woman as President and the first woman elected to a Lieutenant position.

Past Chief Robert Lehmann administered the oath of office to the Chief Officers for 2020: Chief Engineer Jeffrey Tooker, 1st Assistant Chief Gregory Forgea, 2nd Assistant Chief Michael Benson, Jr., 3rd Assistant Chief Michael Lansing II.

East Greenbush Fire Chief Jeffrey Tooker offered the oath of office to the Line Officers for 2020: Captains Anthony Gullo, Jacob Hallenbeck, Nicholas Liuzzi, Anthony Proulx, Daniel Reyner; Lieutenants Christie Cullum, Nicolas Field, William Lindemann, Cameron Poli, Kurt Schlachter; Foremen Ryan Condo, Richard Hendrick, Jr., Timothy Hedgepeth, Donald Peal, Joseph Winnicki, Jr.; Fire Police Captain Thomas Whittemore;

Rensselaer County Legislator Thomas Grant offered the oath of office to the Executive Officers for 2020: President Tracy Cullum, Vice President Joseph Liuzzi, Recording Secretary Gina Pendolino, Financial Secretary Christopher Cargain, Treasurer Paul Benson, Membership Secretary Joseph Lacivita, Sergeant-at-Arms Christie Cullum; Board of Directors Chairman Christopher Linck, Michael Benson, Jr., Marc Iorio, Richard Hendrick, Jr., Donald Peal, Kurt Schlachter

Vice President Joseph Liuzzi offered the oath of office to the 2020 Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary to the East Greenbush Fire Company: President Kathleen Schmidt, Vice President Michele Jenkins, Recording Secretary Patricia Steadman, Treasurer Susan Benson, Membership Secretary Cynthia Reineke, Historian Erica Pues.

In addition to the installation of the 2020 officers, several awards were presented. Outgoing Chief Robert Lehmann, having completed his statutory term limit of five consecutive years of Chief, the first Chief in 40 years to do so, was honored by the East Greenbush Board of Fire Commissioners, the East Greenbush Fire Company, the Schodack Center Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners and by the Rensselaer County Legislature. Outgoing President Michael Lansing was recognized for his laudable service as President. The Ladies Auxiliary Annual Award was presented by Michelle Jenkins to Emily Proulx and Linda Cook. Kurt Schlachter was honored by Past Chief Lehmann for his assistance to the Chief's office and his efforts with the Explorer Post. Todd Cullum was the honoree of the 2019 President's Award. Captain Michael Prestipino was awarded the Officer of the Year for 2019. Scott Ciabattari was honored as the 2018 Firefighter of the Year. Tracy Cullum and Patricia Steadman were recognized as Life Members of the Fire Company.

Putnam County Report Submitted by: Luann Edele, PCVP

Happy 2020!! Since this is the first issue of the new year/new decade, I want to again wish all of you a very happy, healthy time ahead! It's winter, which is typically a more quiet time here in Putnam from an events standpoint, but we do have two special things happening this month, shown below:

First, on February 7th, the Putnam County Bureau of Emergency Services will be hosting the annual Firefighter 1 Graduation, which will bring approximately 25 newly trained and eager First Responders to our County! For this event, our County Association will once again offer refreshments in celebration of their commencement and members of our County Auxiliary will also be there to lend a hand and greet the graduates and their families!

In addition, this year marks Brewster Fire Department's 150th Anniversary and they've planned so many wonderful events, the first being a Fireman's Ball on February 22nd! I've heard so much about the Balls that were held years ago, so needless to say I'm excited to take part in this invitation-only blast from the past!! Other public and private events are planned for this very special year and I'll give you a sneak peek in future write-ups – including its anniversary parade on August 22nd!

On a solemn note, on behalf of our County Association we mourn the loss of two very special individuals. Honorary Member Bill Buckmaster Jr, who we could always count on to be present at our meetings and to bring us guidance and wisdom whenever asked! Then, sadly we started off the year with the loss of one of our Past Presidents, Ann ("Annie") Reisdorph. Annie was the first and remains the only female President of the County Association as of this writing. Both Bill's and Annie's sudden passings were a shock to so many!

We continue to keep Honorary Member Chan Rivera and President Jim Croughan in our thoughts as each continues to recover from earlier-this-year personal procedures. Our next County Association meeting will be held on March 30th at the Putnam Lake Fire Department. This begins with our Annual Memorial Service where those members and our member's immediate family who've passed in 2019 will be remembered and honored. If you're in the area, you're always most welcome to join us!

Enjoy the rest of the winter, stay safe and I'll see you around the region soon!

Slater Chemical FD

David Dross, Chief
 Stephen Buchman, Assistant Chief
 Brian Marron, Captain
 Adam Brown, 1st Lieutenant
 Kayleigh Maupin, 2nd Lieutenant
 Jeffrey Phillips, President
 Kevin Steger, Vice President
 John Steele, Treasurer
 Mark Matthews, Sr., Recording
 Secretary John Pomarico,
 Fin Sec Dominic Virtuoso,
 Director - 3 Years

Roosevelt Company #1

Chief Lew Darrow
 1st Asst Chief Jeff Scala
 2nd Asst Chief Ray Stretz
 3rd Asst Chief Ralph Ciampaglione
 President Janice Ciampaglione
 Vice President Beth Steenbergh
 Secretary Dee Sagendorph
 Treasurer Barb Cary

Pawling Fire Company

54-1 Everett White
 54-2 Chris Greene
 54-3 Brendan Gaughran
 54-4 Tim Higgins
 54-5 Francis Schmitt

Hose Co 1

Lt Elliot Ludington
 Hook and Ladder
 Capt Brian Berlandi
 Lt Mikey Brown

Hose Co 2.

Capt Fred Lates
 Lt Tom Brennan

Hose Co 3.

Capt Paul Bennett.
 Fire Police Capt Joe Samela,
 Lt Paul Stoveland
 President Dennis Bruno
 Vice President Joe Samela
 Secretary Paul Stoveland
 Treasurer Cameron Kemmer
 Director Ed Hauser
 Director Vincent Galvin
 Director Albert Akin

Unionvale FD

Chief Steven Schmoke
 Rescue Chief Tim Murphy
 Captain St. 1 Peter Vigilio
 Captain St. 2 Jacob Meester
 Fire Police Captain Lisette Hitsman
 Fire Police Lt. St. 1 Dan Casucci
 President Fire Co. Kathy Welsh
 Vice president John Welsh
 Secretary Cindy DiCintio
 Treasurer Lisette Hitsman
 Sergeant at Arms Dan Casucci
 BoD (3 yrs) Dave Schmoke
 Rescue Chief Tim Murphy
 Rescue Captain Tim Meester
 Lt. St. 1 Cindy DiCintio
 Lt. St. 2 Beth Elliott
 Secretary Dennis Spinney
 Treasurer John Welsh

JH Hose Company

President Ryan Courtien
 1st Vice Alan Ackerman
 2nd Vice Robert Greenlese
 Treasurer Bob Sartori
 Secretary Scot Conklin
 Treasurer Brian Kelly
 Chief Ryan Sartori
 Deputy Chief Jon-Paul Aubry
 Station Chief st 1 Eric Kelly
 Station Chief st 2 Kevin Harris
 Captain st 1 Josh Dubray
 Captain st 2 Dan Shultz
 Lieutenant st 1 Chris Dingee
 Rescue Squad Caption Angela Glynn

Rhinebeck FD

Chief- Kyle Eighmy
 Assistant Chief- Bryant Knapp
 Line Officers:
 First Captain- Peter Fraleigh
 Second Captain- Todd Leary
 First Lieutenant- Sheldon Tieder
 Second Lieutenant- Shane Hassett
 EMS:
 Captain- Chrissy Eighmy
 First Lieutenant- Jeff Cotter
 Fire Police:
 Captain- Tim Day
 First Lieutenant- Frank Dietrich
 Civil Officers:
 President- Mark Browne
 Vice President- Sonny Fraiman
 Financial Secretary- LeeAnne Pitcher
 Treasurer- John Imperato
 Board of Director- Rick Dorrer
 Board of Director- Sandy Williams

Rhinecliff FD

Chief Richard Kipp 3rd
 1st Asst Craig Bassett
 2nd Asst Chief Jacob Euell
 Fire Lieutenant Patrick Capciabauda
 Rescue Lieutenant Ryan Lane
 President Jacob Euell
 Vice President. Ryan Cimorelli
 Secretary Zachary Bendiner
 Treasurer Joseph Baer
 Board of Directors Dan Rushton

Pleasant Valley FD

Chief Jeff Hickman
 1st Assistant Chief Mike Cosenza
 2nd Assistant Chief Mark Luby
 ESS Captain Trevor Simoni
 ESS Lt. Andrew Murphy
 ESS Lt. Ken Wallace
 Fire Police Cpt Karl Wenzel
 Fire Police Lt Theresa Wenzel
 Fire Police Lt Mindy Robinson
 Engine Captain John Cronk Engine
 Lt. Laura DiFrenza
 Engine Lt Jay Meyer
 Engine Lt Eddie See
 Engine Lt. Cameron Tuller

Tivoli FD

Chief: Marc Hildenbrand
 1st Asst Chief: Thomas Crisci Jr.
 2nd Asst Chief: Josh Coons
 Captain: Phil Crisci
 1st Lieutenant: Bobby Staffiero 2nd
 Lieutenant: Joseph Crisci
 Rescue Cpt Cheryl Hilbrandt
 FP Cpt Thomas Crisci Sr.
 FP LT Robin Bruno
 President: Wayne Hildenbrand
 Vice Pres Anthony Staffiero
 Treasurer: Terry Martin
 Recording Secretary: Gail Torchia
 Corresponding Secretary: Robin Bruno

Beekman FD

Chief Officer: Greg Rayburn
 1st Asst. Chief: Rob Mallen
 2nd Asst. Chief: Ezio Battaglini,
 Captain: Andrew Rayburn,
 1st Lieutenants: Vinnie Giaimo & Leo
 DiBono Jr.
 2nd Lieutenants: Chris Hann & Casey
 Higham
 President: Sheryl Puletz,
 Vice President: Victor Reinoso,
 Secretary: Pam Ferris,
 Treasurer: Jon Field,
 Sgt. at Arms: Rob Ulmer,
 Steward: Rob Kraus,
 Board of Director: Paul Canevari EngCo
 Secretary: Kevin Dubois
 Rescue Squad Cpt Donna Herbst, 1st
 Lieutenant: Morgan McCulloch 2nd
 Lieutenant: Heather Cooper Secretary:
 Dave Knapp

Pine Plains FD

Chief: Brian Walsh
 1ST Asst Chief: Marc Dillinger
 2ND Asst Chief ; Steve Camburn
 Capt: Mike McCarthy
 1st LT: Matt Cade
 2nd LT: Tyson Klay
 Rescue Captain: Ronnie Brenner-Walsh
 1st LT: Nia Carey
 Fire Police:
 Captain: Kerri Dillinger
 st Lt: Brenda Jackson
 President: Ronnie Brenner-Walsh Vice
 President: Brenda Jackson.
 Secretary: Marie Nuccio

Albany County Report

Submitted by: Walter Eck, aCVP

We are now in full swing of the 2020 Installation Dinner / Ceremonies season. Please remember that those being sworn in are the individuals that we have elected as our officers to lead us. Whether the candidate was your personal choice or not does not matter. Show them the respect that they deserve and that their position commands. Support them the best that you can anytime that you have the opportunity. We all go down with a sinking ship when we think of only ourselves, but when we come together, working as a team, we can face any odds and change the outcome of any situation. We preach brotherhood, let us make sure that we practice what we preach.

Albany County News / Events:

Albany County has experienced numerous working structure fires and motor vehicle accidents in cities, towns, and rural areas alike.

The Albany County Volunteer Firefighter's Association held their quarterly meeting on December 11, 2019. At this meeting a unanimous vote was made to place a page in the Association minutes in honor of HVVFA Past President William S. Buckmaster Jr. President Buckmaster was a true gentleman and a good, and honorable man who represented the HVVFA in an earnest and class fashion. He attended and participated in Albany County meetings and he will be sorely missed by many. Rest in peace Brother.

The Albany County Volunteer Firefighter's Association, FASNY, and the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, will be hosting the fourth Annual Albany County Fire Service Legislative Breakfast with County, State and Federal Elected Officials on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at the Latham Fire Department. We hope to provide an opportunity for Albany County fire service personnel to learn about the NYS Fire Service Issues of United Concern Legislative Agenda and how they can assist in getting this important legislation passed. This has been an extremely successful event each time it has been held.

During the remainder of the winter months please remember to check in our neighbors, especially the elderly or infirm. A simple phone call or maybe a brief visit can assure the safety of someone in our community. That is part of our job. The warmth of knowing that you made a small difference in someone's day is well worth the time invested. Remember that a smile and/or a random act of kindness costs nothing, but to the people that receive these gifts, they are priceless.

Please... if you have not gotten a flu shot – get one. It is not too late. Protect yourself and others.

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.

I hope to see you in my travels. Until I do, Smile and Be Safe!

Warren County Report

Submitted by: John Paul Jones

West Glens Falls Fire Company

Chief	Jeff Dailey
1st Asst.	Michael Gordon
2nd Asst.	Tyson Converse
3rd Asst.	Matt Flewelling
4th Asst.	Frank Murone
Captain	Anthony Glinbizzi
1st Lieutenant	Jake Dailey
2nd Lieutenant	Brendan Smith
President	Matt Sumner
Vice Pres.	Chris Kilmartin
Secretary	Vacant
Board Member	Kevin Miller
Board Member	Derek Chase
Board Member	Harold Bouton
Board Member	Carter Blasko

Bay-Ridge Fire Company

Chief	Charles Mellon Jr.
1st Asst.	Patrick Mellon Sr.
2nd Asst.	Jeremy Coons
3rd Asst.	Isa Stahl
4th Asst.	John Schadwill
First Captain	Robert Bell
2nd Captain	Patrick Mellon Jr.
Fire Police Cpt	Ralph Scinta
President	Charles Mellon Sr.
Vice Pres	Jeremy Dickinson
Secretary	Michael Palmer
Director	Eric Hatt
Treasurer	Kevin Giambrone
Chaplain	William LaPann
Director	Chuck Ogden
Director	Gary West
Director	Andrew Snide

We wish the incoming Officers the best in their positions.

HVVFA Ladies Auxiliary Submitted by: diana balling

Think we can all agree: this weather is just plain crazy! We had a “very spring like” weekend which turned into a very “fall like week”. And it’s supposed to be winter. Hope everyone is surviving the ups and downs and stay healthy!

There have been a great number of members who were needing our prayers! This applies to both the Auxiliary and the Association. Since I don’t want to miss anyone in error, please keep everyone in your thoughts for good health and/or strength to get through the difficulties.

In the near future you should be receiving information regarding the Convention Journal 2020. Just in case you miss it, here is the information:

- Full Page-----\$70
- ½ Page-----\$40
- ¼ Page-----\$20

If you’d prefer to remember a loved one, you can always support Ladies Auxiliary of Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association (LA-HVVFA), by purchasing a Memorial with a cost of \$5.00 per name.

Boosters is yet another way to support the auxiliary which is \$1.00 per name submitted.

Send all hard copy of ads, memorials and boosters and payment to Nancy Ferretti – 71 Birchwood Park – Palenville NY. 12463. Digital ads should be sent to Susan Mehan (sussysue312@gmail.com) with cc to Nancy Ferretti (vferretti@hvc.rr.com).

If you have any questions, contact Susan - Chair of the Journal. Her phone number is 518-281-3459.

The next meeting of LA-HVVFA will be held at the Firemen’s Home in Hudson on Sunday, April 19. Directors meet at 10:30 am and the Executive Board meet at 11:00 am. Lunch for a small cost will be served at 12:00 pm followed by the meeting at 1:00 pm. Don’t forget to bring Dark Secrets and/or Specials to help support our Ways and Means. Bring a friend (s) as it’s always great to gather and exchange thoughts and ideas on how to better our individual auxiliaries.

Hope to see everyone in April! Stay healthy! Let’s pray the rest of the winter isn’t nasty to us.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

A very special thank you goes to the member of the Royal Order of the Blue Vests (AKA Nut Busters) who decided that the residents in the Firemen’s Home would receive a very special Christmas present from Santa this year. This member has purchased a December Blue Vests raffle ticket for every resident in the Firemen’s Home. The residents who have won on the Christmas raffle include the following members: Messer’s Robert S. Darling, Robert B. Johnson, John R. Kowal, Dudley R. Philhower, Edward L. Russell Jr., and Ms. Annie Ryan. The total amount of monies paid to the residents was \$190.00. On behalf of the Royal Order of the Blue Vests and the residents in the Firemen’s Home, thank you again to that very special Blue Vests member who purchased the December raffle tickets.

Columbia County Report Submitted by: Barbara Fischer ccvn

The CCVFA held their first Quarterly meeting of 2020 on January 8th at the A.B. Shaw Fire Company located in Claverack, NY. FASNY First Vice President John Farrell attended the meeting and reported on FASNY activities for the coming year as well as the events that will take place leading up to the 150th Anniversary of FASNY. The 150th Anniversary celebration will include a parade and will be held in Tarrytown, NY in 2022.

Other guests in attendance were HVFFA Past President Fred Pettingell, HVFFA Past President Delby Spath and HVFFA Director Eric Orr. Firemen’s Home Trustee Bill Eck was also in attendance and gave us some insight on what’s happening at the Home.

The meeting was well attended with a lot of discussion on the July convention which will be “hosted” by the Columbia County Vol. Firefighters Association and will again be located at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in Chatham, NY.

On January 21st the Columbia County Chiefs Association will hold their first meeting of the year at the Ghent Fire Company in Ghent, NY. They are looking to fill two soon to be vacant positions of Secretary and Treasurer since those folks are retiring.

The newly appointed Columbia County Fire Coordinator, George Keeler announced that he and his deputies will be meeting to schedule classes for the upcoming year and he encouraged people to sign up for the classes. He stated that there were 22 classes held in 2019 which totaled 539 hours of instruction with 352 students attending classes. The Coordinators office is updating their website and the new Training Tower is moving forward very well and is expected to be completed by May of this year.

The bi-law committee has been discussing possibly reducing the number of Board members by one officer since it is getting harder to fill positions.

Dave Chapman, a member of the Legislative Committee, informed those in attendance that he attended the FASNY Legislative Conference in November at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, NY. He announced that Legislators will be visiting area fire companies around April of this year which will give firefighters an opportunity to discuss issues that are before the Legislature regarding the fire service.

Historian Jeff French gave a brief synopsis of what the Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association did during the 1940’s- 1950. The convention was held in Claverack, NY in 1940 with approximately 500 firefighters attending the quarterly meetings. Also in 1940, he noted that there were 1,371 firefighters at the convention of which 1,000 of them were members of the association. That number dropped to 950 members in 1950. Also in 1940, 500 firefighters donated to the Red Hat Collection for the Firemen’s Home collecting \$37.26!! That was a lot of money back then!

Check out www.columbiapage.com for events going on throughout Columbia County.



HVVFA Haz-Mat, Homeland Security and
Training Committee with the Fire and Accident
Prevention Committee proudly presents
the
2020 Annual John J. Mulligan Memorial
Haz-Mat, Homeland Security and Fire Training
Seminar

March 28, 2020
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Athens Volunteer Fire Department
39 3rd Street
Athens, NY 12015

AGENDA TOPICS TO INCLUDE:

- Fire Protection Specialist Timothy Graves (NYS DHSES-OFPC) will present “**NYS Firefighter Cancer Prevention Program**”. The New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control has announced a major initiative to help protect its staff, New York State’s firefighters and their families from the occupational threat of cancer. This initiative is a combination of awareness and education about the cancer threat with actions and policies that reduce the threat.
- Chief Guy Swartout (NYS DHSES-OFPC Inspections and Investigations Eastern Branch) will present “It’s time for an Intervention“. This presentation will boldly confront the inexcusable fire death rate in NY. It’s not numbers. It’s real people. We’ll talk about what fire prevention really is and how we can and must change attitudes and culture.
- Special Agent David A. Scoons (Manager of Hazardous Materials CSX Police Department) will present “Emergency Response to Railroad Incidents”. This presentation will cover all aspects of response to rail emergencies. Whether a Probie, Veteran, Fire Police Officer, Line Officer, or Chief the information presented will be a benefit to all.

Pre-registration encouraged to: Walter Eck Jr. at wwekme@aol.com. PLEASE ... indicate March 28, 2020
Registration on your subject line and provide your name the way you would like it written on your certificate.

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. on the morning of event. Certificates will be issued immediately following the program.

Registration fee of \$10 per person which covers continental breakfast, beverages, and on site lunch.

Any questions, please contact Chairman, Walter Eck Jr. at 518-439-7973.

HV Legislative Committee Submitted by: James Hartwick

School Inspection Law

The legislation to amend the Education Law to modernize school inspections was sponsored by Hudson Valley and forwarded to FASNY to be included on the Legislative Scorecard three years ago. Finally this past year the bill sponsors Assemblyman Zebrowski and Senator Carlucci were able to steer the passage of the amendment. Both legislators represent areas in Rockland and Westchester Counties in the southern most section of the Hudson Valley. Governor Cuomo signed the bill into law on 12/17/19.

This bill modernizes the law to take into account changes in how school inspections are conducted. It removes the ability of persons who are not qualified to conduct the inspection to do so. It also provides schools with flexibility in meeting the public notice requirements and eliminates the hold harmless provision which allow inspectors who made errors on an inspection reports to not be held liable.

The old law, required public schools to submit an annual fire safety inspection report of the school buildings. There was no recourse for schools who failed to submit the inspection report in a timely manner or at all. This bill requires the commissioner of education to take action if a private school does not comply with the inspection requirement. Currently, the commissioner has the ability to take action if public schools failed to comply with the inspection requirement but there was no similar process for private schools. Under the new law, if a private school fails to comply, the commissioner shall order the school to be inspected and if the inspection is refused, they must notify the local government who has jurisdiction over the school of their non-compliance. This will provide the State Education Department with the necessary enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance with this requirement and the safety of school buildings.

As noted by the legislators, this ensures that inspections are performed by qualified and properly trained inspectors. This significant law now gives top priority to the safety of our students, administrators, teachers and other school employees. The parents of school children were concerned with the old law. The Governor noted “that while school inspections are sometimes perceived as just another administrative requirement, the truth is that lives can be endangered if they aren’t done right.”

Legislative Conference

The Westchester County VFA is coordinating a legislative conference on March 7th which will be hosted by Cortlandt Engine Co. in Montrose. This is also a FASNY Legislative Outreach meeting with the HVVFA legislative committee. State Assembly Members and Senators will be invited to address our priority concerns and discuss other firematic issues. Registration and a light breakfast start at 9:00 am and the meeting convenes at 10:00 am. Lunch will be served thereafter. Hopefully you will join us at this important meeting.

Annual Christmas Party

The Royal Order of the Blue Vests hosted their Annual Christmas Party at the Firemen’s Home, in Hudson, on December 21, 2019. The Officers and Members of the Royal Order of the Blue Vests started arriving about 11:00 AM. It was time for the Annual Christmas Party to start. Fires Vice President Mark Dinkelacker introduced the Royal Order of the Blue Vests Officers and welcomed all in attendance.

The Annual Christmas Party was officially started with the arrival of Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus. Santa Claus, . Mrs. Claus and his merry Elves distributed Christmas cards to the residents in the Home. The two merry Elves this year were named Dinkelacker and Edele. After that, it was time for the Bingo games to start. Master Bingo Announcer, Mr. Fred Pettingell, stated, “Are you ready for some Bingo? There are monies to be won.” Mr. Pettingell did announce the Bingo games and did an outstanding job. There were many residents attending this year.

The afternoon refreshments were served to the residents and they were delicious. This year, the refreshments included cheese (sharp & horseradish), pepperoni, chips, crackers, chicken poppers, sliced kielbasa with sauerkraut, potato (aka Shepherd’s) meat pie, sliders (mini cheese burgers), macaroni & cheese, and many cookies for dessert. A special Thank you to the Hillcrest Fire Department and to the Wayne Hose Company No. 1 for their many years of donating refreshments, to the staff at the Firemen’s Home kitchen for the delicious meal and for the excellent service they provided, to Mr. Fred Pettingell for announcing the bingo games, to Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus for taking time in their very busy schedule to visit the residents, and to Past Presidents Mr. James A Coons, Mr. George H. Hill, and Mr. George F. Stacey for the many hours (& years) that they spend making sure that everything runs smoothly and for coordinating the Royal Order of the Blue Vests Annual Christmas Party.

There are seventy one residents (male & female) in the Firemen’s Home. They enjoy the festivities. The residents enjoy the feeling that their brother & sister firefighter’s care. It is not just during the Christmas Season. The residents know that we care year round. It is the spirit of friendship that we share with the residents.

There were many Officers, Members, spouses, children, and grandchildren of the Royal Order of the Blue Vests in attendance. There are many Members who contribute throughout the year that were unable to attend. These people make the Annual Christmas Party a huge success. Thank you for your support and for all that the Royal Order of the Blue Vests members does throughout the year for the residents in the Firemen’s Home in Hudson.

Just in –

BOWLING Tournament – All FIRE/EMS/Family are Welcome
\$125 per team of 5; First session 10am, Second session 1pm @ Spins
Bowl of Carmel on 3/29/2020 –
For Information call – FF Michael Doherty (914) 943-8842



PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL AWARDS

FIREFIGHTER or EMS SERVICE PROVIDER
OF THE YEAR AWARD**FIREFIGHTER or EMS SERVICE PROVIDER of the YEAR AWARDS
APPLICATION**

DATE OF INCIDENT: _____

DEPARTMENT(S) INVOLVED: _____

NOMINEE(S): _____

TYPE OF NOMINATION: _____ **FIRE** _____ **EMS****INCIDENT** - Please describe the type of call and the actions taken (*attach add'l sheets as necessary*):

DETAILS FOR PROPER SUBMISSION

In addition to this Application, all nominations **must** be submitted on Fire Department or Volunteer Ambulance Corps letterhead and be **signed** by either the **Chief of the Department, Captain of the VAC (if applicable)** or the **Incident Chief in Charge**, along with a copy of the **Incident Report**. *Attn EMS: Do **not** attach copy of PCR.*

Additional details to support your nomination, such as newspaper clippings, is most welcomed but does not replace the required **Nomination Letter** and **Incident Report**.

Please submit all nominations with the above requirements for the period **Jan 1, 2019 to Dec 31, 2019** to the Committee Chairperson no later than **March 1, 2020** for consideration.

CHAIRPERSON DEPUTY CHIEF ED BUTLER; CO-CHAIR LUANN EDELE
55 Meridian Drive, Brewster, NY 10509-3911
Cell: 845-494-2497 or 845-234-3127
Email: depchfhuggybear@AOL.com, LuAnnEdele@AOL.com

Rockland County Report

Submitted by: john coyle iv, rcvp

RCVFA MONTHLY MEETING

The December meeting was held on Fri., Dec. 13, at the Nanuet Fire Dept. The RCVFA Officers and the Nanuet Fire Dept. surprised Stu Gates with a 91st Birthday Party with Hudson Valley VFA, Westchester County VFA, FASNY and Southern NY VFA representatives in attendance. The special guests were Stu's son, Glen and his grandsons, Glen's fiancé and her parents. The membership also wished Joseph Hannigan from Wayne Hose Co., celebrating his 93rd birthday, a healthy and happy birthday.

RC FIRE POLICE ASSOC ELECTIONS

The RC Volunteer Fire Police Assoc had their elections the new officers are as follows:

Pres.	Mike Leitner
Vice-Pres.	Scott Hankinson
Rec. Sec.	George Cich
Fin. Sec.	Tom Brown
Treas.	Mike Kramar
Sgt-at- Arms	John Stuercke
Chaplain	Rudy Hansen
Directors:	
Clarkstown	James Kunz
Haverstraw	Tom Bicknell
Orangeburg	David Johnson
Ramapo	Mike Kramar
Stony Point	Douglas Mann

WE SADLY REPORT THAT:

David Elg, died Dec. 28, 2019 age 87 Dave joined Congers Fire Department in 1976, served as the Company President from 1980 to 1981 and currently was on the Board of Directors. Dave also served on the Fire Police since 2005, where he was currently the Captain. Dave was a veteran of the United States Air Force and served from 1952-1955, RCVFA member since 2005, A member of RC Fire Service Museum Board.

Joseph D'Urso died Nov 6, 2019, age 87. 48-year Life Member of the Tappan Fire Department, 36-year Life Member of the RCVFA joining in 1983. US Navy Veteran of the Korean War, member of Carl A Schlein American Legion Post #1271.

William S. Buckmaster, died Dec 5, 2019 age 76. He was a an honorary RCVFA member, a life member of the Howells Fire Dept, Past Pres, Sec. and present Treas. of the Hortonville Fire Dept, Past Pres. of the Hudson Valley Firemen's Assoc, he served on the membership committee of FASNY, current Pres. of the Blue Vests, member and past Pres. of Sullivan County Firefighters Assoc, and Life member of Veteran Firemen's Assoc of Middletown.

LAST CALL FIRST CALL

As we do every year, we report the Last Call and First Call of the year.

The last call of 2019 was at 23:45, terminated at 00:00, FD 17 Automatic Alarm at 16 Park Ave., Spring Valley.

The first call of 2020 was at 00:51, terminated at 01:23, FD 9 Oven/Appliance/Cooking Fire at 42 Second St., New City.

Thanks to Chief Adam Feuer, Communications Division (44-Control) for the data..

Senator James Skoufis sponsored Senate Bill S7286 – this bill supports OFPC Fire Protection Specialists with regard to disability benefits.

The below letter can be emailed or sent to your local NYS Senator!

Dear Senator

Please support Senate Bill S7286 relating to providing disability benefits to Fire Protection Specialists.

Everyday, members of the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control work to prevent, prepare to, and respond to emergencies throughout New York State. Fire Protection Specialists respond to events that can range from an overturned gasoline truck, to fire investigations, to inspecting sparkling devices, to assisting with mass gatherings. Fire Protection Specialists and their families need to be protected in case they become injured and incapacitated on the job.

There are many examples members could submit of times they have been placed in harms way for the citizens of New York State. Most recently, on Halloween night, over 40 members from OFPC responded to the flash flooding in the Mohawk Valley. They risked their lives in order to effect rescues of over 65 citizens trapped by the flood waters. At the 2020 State of the State address, Governor Cuomo said, “...they put their own lives at risk to save others...” as he recognized their efforts. In the days that followed the Halloween flooding, additional members were deployed as part of the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) completing rapid structural inspections of buildings impacted by the flooding. These members worked in and around buildings that were structurally compromised and detouring around washed out roads. Over ### inspections were conducted in ## days.

The Office of Fire Prevention & Control truly has the best of the best when it comes to emergency responders and the Fire Protection Specialists from OFPC deserve to be protected!

Thank you for your support!

**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, Centennial Hose Co. # 4 (Peekskill), Fearless Hook & Ladder Co, 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, Wassaic Fire Company, West Glens Falls Fire Co. No. 1

**HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER
EDITOR Fran Galu
26 Laurel Lane, Highland Falls, NY 10928**

TO: