



THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER

Volume No. 2020 Issue 01

August 2020

I am very excited to have been elected to the Office President of this great association. I am looking forward to working with the officers and members to continue the good work of the previous presidents. I'd like to thank our Jr. Past President Jack Delaney for his leadership in navigating the uncertain shoals of COVID-19. We've never faced anything like this in our history. Jack did an outstanding job of getting a plan pulled together for our annual meeting. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention 1st VP Outhouse assistance in securing a location. Kudos to the board of directors, the chaplain's committee and the Sgt at Arms for their support in making the meeting a success.

I'd like to welcome our new recording secretary Courtney Davidson on board ! I'm sure she will do an outstanding job for us. I'm excited to new members getting involved in the association. I am looking forward to working with Courtney and the other officers especially newly elected 2nd VP Walter "Bill" Eck and new director Robert Fritsche. As well as the chair of the County VPs LuAnn Edele. Congratulations to all. Thank you to Bob Boddie as a retiring director. Congratulations to retiring recording secretary June Gunza. June, thank you for all the hours and hard work that you have given the association. I'm pleased to announce the office of Recording Secretary Emeritus was bestowed on June at the Annual Meeting.

Some of items of focus for me this year will be:

- Gathering as many emails for association as possible. We have discovered that we have less than 10% of the membership's emails. We distributed our newsletter, send out notices and other communications electronically. Only having a small percentage of our membership receive vital communications needs to be rectified. I have asked the County VPs to focus on this for the association.
- Forming an I/T committee to ensure there is access to Association records, one uniform email distribution list and ensure the data is kept in a safe environment.
- Traditions and Procedures committee to ensure they are looking at our operational procedures, especially reacting to pandemics such as COVID.
- I am always looking for new members for committee positions, if you are interested please reach out to me or to any of the officers. Being on a committee is a great way to get know the organization better and great way to get yourself involved.

If you are a member of FASNY, our own John Farrell and Chan Rivera are running for President and 2nd VP of FASNY, respectively. We are asking your support of these 2 fine candidates. John is running unopposed. However, Chan does have competition from Suffolk County, please visit our website or facebook page to see how you can help to get Chan elected.

We are working on plans for the Home day, as most of you are aware, we cannot physically have a celebration for members of the home due to COVID. In conjunction with Home Day, we normally meet in the morning for our annual legislative caucus. We are seeking an alternative location for that meeting. As soon as a plan is formulated it will be announced.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held in Saugerties on October 25th at 1 PM barring any issues as a result of COVID.

I just would like to pass along my personal thanks for your support and trust in electing me to the Office of President.

Please stay well and safe out there!

The 2020 RCVFA parade in West Nyack in Sept. has been canceled. The convention is being discussed by the board of directors next week. Monthly meetings are still canceled until further notice.

HVVFA 2020-2021 Meetings

Oct 25, 2020 – Board of Directors 1pm – Saugerties
Jan 23, 2021 – Board of Directors 1pm – PP Dinner
Best Western, Kingston
Apr 18, 2021 – Board of Directors 1pm – Saugerties
Jun 16, 2021 – Board of Directors 1pm – Saugerties
Jun 17 & 18 - Convention - Saugerties

2021 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

depchfhuggybear@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, 2021 FOR
THE PRIOR YEAR'S RECOGNITION**



Website: www.firevideos.net
Email: hotshotsfirevideos@gmail.com

Greene County Report**Submitted by: Robert Schrader, GCVP**

Greene County Vol. Firemen's Association annual day at the Hudson Firemen's Home was held on June 7th. It was hosted by West-Athens Limestreet Vol. Company. This year due to COVID 19 there was a parade of trucks and Chief's car from eleven Greene County Fire Companies. West-Athens provided ice cream and cake to the Home for the residence to enjoy. Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association and Ladies Auxiliary annually provide \$200 awards to a graduating senior from county schools. Schools include all county schools, plus many private schools out of the county where students residing in Greene County attend. Award winners have to be involved with community service or a member in EMS, fire company, or fire auxiliary organization. This year eight awards were presented. This program was in its twentieth year. The Greene County Vol. Firemen's Association's Annual Convention September 8-12 is still in planning hosted by Greene County Association. Discussions around having some or all traditional events (meetings, dinners, memorial ceremony, parades) of the convention will not be decided until August 6.

Understanding the strain that this year has caused on the business community of our county, the Association will still put out an Ad book honoring our business sponsors for their support over the years. This will happen even if the entire convention and meetings are canceled. The association along with county fire companies picking up the full costs of this ad book.

Columbia County Report**Submitted by: Barbara Fischer, GCVP**

The Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association Directors have been conducting business via Zoom meetings and will meet again on July 25th which would have been the date of the annual convention. At this meeting, it will be proposed to do an emergency appointment of Officers and Directors who will then hold office until another meeting that is set for September 9th. On September 9th, the plan is to have the first Quarterly meeting for the new convention year so that the business of the annual meeting can be taken care of then. The September 9th Quarterly meeting will be held at the Stuyvesant Falls Fire House as long as the COVID-19 regulations will allow it.

Hopefully, the October 2020 meeting will be the first Directors meeting of the year. After October, the regular meeting schedule will resume.

Check out www.columbiapage.com for any allowable events going on throughout Columbia County and please stay well!

Putnam County Report**Submitted by: Luann Edele, PCVP**

Greetings!! I do hope that this letter finds you and yours doing well during these still-chaotic times for us. At least, however, we have been able to move around and see a semi-normal return to routine, even if we DO all look like the Lone Ranger in our masks! I've no complaints, I'll take wearing my ever-growing assortment of fun &/or fashionable masks over staring out the window in self-quarantine any day!

By the time you read this, our 2020-21 Officers will have all been sworn in officially, something we were looking forward to since our canceled Installation Dinner back in April. We agreed that the Putnam County VFA will not host an installation dinner this year, but instead wait till next year when it will also be our 70th Anniversary. In addition, we will need to combine our annual Memorial Service, which sadly was canceled this year, with next year's service.

The Cold Spring Junior Fire Academy and the Lake Carmel Explorers' Weekend had to be canceled this year. Fundraising events throughout our County also gave notice of non-happenings. Our County's firehouses & VACs are now open to members though we do not yet have the OK for guests to enter as of this writing. I know it's the same in the other Hudson Valley counties. Even our TOPS Center (Training & Operations) in Carmel is closed, except for students, till September.

On a bright note! Our County Association held its July meeting (in person!) at the Patterson Fire Dept's outdoor pavilion. I wish to thank Ulster County VFA, whose meeting I attended, for putting that bee in our bonnets! Thinking outside the box is key right now!

Hopefully we will remain strong and diligent so that we here in Putnam, in the Mid-Hudson Region, and the rest of the state, will be able to keep moving forward throughout the remnants of this health crisis. When we meet, perhaps at the FASNY meeting, be sure to tap me on the shoulder to say Hi. You'll surely recognize me, I'll be the one of the very many behind a mask! 😊

Stay well, stay strong, stay sanitized!

Albany County Report

Submitted by: JOHN WEBB, ACVP

Albany County continues to experience numerous working structure fires in several cities and rural areas alike. The City of Albany responded to a working fire involving two structures and another fire where a victim was burned.

Jake Houck a Past Chief of the Onesquethaw Fire Company and an ACSD EMT was driving by a residence while in his ambulance and noted that there was a large fire in the rear of the structure. He notified dispatch and as he came back around to the front of the structure the mother met him at the front door with her two daughters and their dog. He assisted them in getting out. He then got them away from the structure and put them all in his ambulance. Jake comes from a very long line of family service. He is a big man with a bigger heart and is in this profession for all the right reasons. He said "He's thankful that no one was seriously hurt and that he happened to be there in this family's time of need. I am not a hero. I think anyone else would have done the same thing I did." The Berne, Delmar, New Salem, Onesquethaw, and Slingerlands Fire Departments responded to fight the fire.

Slingerlands Fire Department responded to a working attached garage fire that involved a 1928 LaSalle.

West Albany Fire Department responded to a working fire on Easter morning. Two families were displaced as a result of the fire and several pets were lost. There were injuries to some of the occupants, but no firefighters were injured. West Albany did a great job as always and Chief D. Sullivan worked with the Albany County Burn Fund and a monetary award was presented to each family by the West Albany FD and the officers of the AC Burn Fund on May 27, 2020.

Other fires of note occurred in Guilderland Center, Latham, Midway, and Watervliet. There have also been numerous serious motor vehicle accidents, two of note occurring in Boght and Elsmere.

Albany County Fire Coordinator G. Paris Jr. working with Albany County Sheriff C. Apple Sr. has completed the ACSO Mobile Trainer. The tractor drawn trailer is a 51' Kentucky moving van trailer that has been modified to include a roof simulator, wall Breach, bail out window, full two level SCBA maze, a forcible door simulator, and double back doors, in addition to four separate rooms for training (a full kitchen, bathroom, studio apartment, and maze). There is a full Bullex laser system with three panels (there is a total of \$34k of Bullex equipment by Lion as well). There is an extinguisher trainer, a smoke generator, and three curb side doors. This is a one of a kind unit. Chief Paris has managed to "put ten pounds of stuff in a five pound box". This firefighting training trailer will be used throughout the county by both career and volunteer departments.

Lowes of Glenmont along with assistance from Advantage Landscaping and the Delmar Sign Shop donated an Honor Garden at the Kevin M. Shea Municipal Training Center. The garden is a living tribute to all those who have been responding and continue to respond during these trying times of the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020. (Photo courtesy of Michael Hallisey - Spotlight Newspapers).

Birthday Parades have been held throughout Albany County. These helped many children and seniors alike to have a special day during the pandemic. The Bethlehem Police Department, Delmar Bethlehem EMS, and fire departments also provided support to the Graduating Class of 2020 by displaying aerial flags at an outdoor graduation ceremony and by delivering caps and gowns to each Senior's home. Each route was led by a BCHS school bus decorated with crepe and balloons followed by PD, FD, and EMS units.

Stanford Heights Fire Department is celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year. In place of a party, they used the funds for food donations. They worked with local businesses and on 03/30/20 they provided 300 boxes of food to those in need. Well done SHFD!

The Albany County Volunteer Firefighter's Association Annual Dinner will not be held this year due to Covid-19 concerns. The Quarterly Meeting of the Association, the Annual Albany County Volunteer Firefighter's Association Inspection Muster, and the Albany County Volunteer Firefighter's Association Ladies Auxiliary Annual Convention Meeting are all in limbo at this time. We will advise when and if any of these important events will be held.

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! Remember to wash your hands, wear your mask, keep your distance – stay healthy!



Rockland County Report

Submitted by: Nick Gatti, rcvp

NEW DEPUTY FIRE COORDINATORS

It is with great pleasure that I, along with all of my Deputy Fire Coordinators, proudly announce that Jason DiSalvo and Thomas McKiernan have been chosen to fill the two vacant Clarkstown Deputy Fire Coordinator positions. Our initial canvassing provided us with eight excellent candidates in which we selectively narrowed down to a final four. The final four were all interviewed, and each was tremendous. This was a very difficult decision-making process. One could say it was a good problem to have, but then again not an easy one. I cannot thank the initial candidates enough for their interest and input in these two positions. Clarkstown has not had a new coordinator in quite some time and I am fully confident that Jason and Tom will perform tremendously. Both individuals were approved by the Fire Advisory Board and their names provided to County Executive Ed Day for his approval. From there, they were presented to the RC Legislature for final approval and that was done at the July Legislative meeting. Along with my fellow coordinators, we all look forward to working alongside both Jason and Tom.

Chris Kear "44-1"

Please note Jason will be "44-8" and Tom "44-9".

HOME AT HUDSON DONATIONS

While our annual Day at the Home trip has been canceled this year because of the pandemic, the Home needs are still there. We are collecting donations for Operation Small Change at the home and will be sending them up later this year.

WE MOURN THEIR PASSING

Chief Brian Knecht died April 17, 2020 age 50. He was a member of the Nyack Fire Department, Orangetown Fire Company and Chief twice 2003-05, and 2018-20. His wife, Jennifer serves as a Fire Commissioner since 2018. His daughter Julia (21) is also a firefighter. He was a RCVFA member since 2005.

Ex-Chief Thomas M. Westervelt Sr died April 27, 2020 age 69. He was a life member in both David B Roche Fire Company Thiells (Chief 2012-13) and the Rockland Lake Fire Department (Chief 1976-77). He was a RCVFA member, joining in 2008.

Ex-Chief Charles E Bullock, died April 20, 2020 age 80. He was a 52-year member of the Central Nyack Fire Department and served as Chief 1978-1979. He was a Life member of the RCVFA, joining in 1971. Charlie was the first African American to serve as Chief in Rockland County, a member of the Rockland County Fire Chief's Association, Honorary Member Jackson Engine Co. 3 Nyack, and NYS Association Fire Chief's. Charlie was a former Clarkstown PD Officer, NYS Park Police Officer and a Retired NYS Police Trooper. He died of COVID-19. His wife Lois died April 3, and his daughter Chanda died April 17, from COVID-19.

PARADE AND CONVENTION UPDATE

The 2020 RCVFA Parade has been officially canceled by a joint agreement between the Association and the host, West Nyack Fire Department. The decision was made based on the current state of the coronavirus pandemic and the uncertainty of local conditions in September. It was done for the safety of both the public and the fire service.

West Nyack has graciously offered to host the parade in 2021 and the Association is happy to accept that offer.

The state of the convention, which now rests solely with the Association, is still unresolved. No one can predict what phase of the pandemic Rockland will be in by September, nor can we get a guarantee of a venue with adequate seating for social distancing, which may or may not be required by September. The Board of Directors has deferred the decision until the end of July and we will keep the Rockland fire service updated on that.

RCVFA JULY SCHOLARSHIP MEETING

July regular meeting is canceled. The Scholarship committee will pick the winners and they will be notified and get their award checks by mail. Winners will be announced in the August Trumpet. Stay safe, stay home.

From the Office of Financial Secretary

The COVID 19 pandemic has turned all our lives upside down in many aspects. This includes the cancelling of the HVVFA 2020 Convention. One of the events scheduled to occur during the Convention was the drawing of winners in the HVVFA Firefighters' Club annual raffle on June 19. The Board of Directors decided that we needed to hold the raffle as advertised.

A Webex internet meeting was held on June 19 to accomplish this task. President Delaney, VP Karashay and Outhouse, several Directors, as well as Financial Secretary Mellan and Treasurer Barrett participated in the meeting. Treasurer Barrett came to my residence to assist in the drawing. The drawing was conducted at my residence and observed by everyone attending the meeting.

The winners are:

1 st Prize	Peter Wortendyke	Nyack
2 nd Prize	John Babcock	New Windsor
3 rd Prize	Josephine Burns	Croton-on-Hudson

It should be noted that Mr. Wortendyke donated back \$50 of his winnings. Thank you.

The Board of Directors thanks all who participated in the raffle which provides much needed funds to support the mission of the Firefighters' Club.

Joe Mellan
HVVFA Financial Secretary

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The Officers and Members of
The Royal Order of the Blue Vests

HV Legislative Committee

Submitted by: James Hartwick

Legislation: LOSAP Points during the Covid Pandemic

Governor Cuomo signed this important legislation on June 17th. The purpose ensures that volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers receive credits toward their length of service award program during the COVID19 pandemic.

As we are aware, LOSAP requires volunteers to earn 50 points in a given year to receive a year's credit toward their pension benefits. Specifically, fire departments have endured the adverse impact on the number of volunteers responding to alarms. In addition, fire departments have also been forced to cancel training drills, events and meetings which have drastically reduced opportunities to earn LOSAP credits.

Due to this, many volunteers are concerned they will not be able to earn the necessary number of credits this year. Therefore, this legislation will allow active volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to earn up to five points per month during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Paraphrasing the legislation.....**The program may provide for the crediting of up to five additional points per month, prorated for periods of less than one month, to each active volunteer firefighter for each month that special emergency response rules were in place restricting firefighter responses to emergency responses and/or restricting the holding of activities for which points could be earned due to guidelines related to the state disaster emergency.**

A political subdivision (village, town or fire district) electing to provide the additional points shall adopt a resolution by April 30, 2021 determining the number of additional points to be credited per month, provided that any additional points credited pursuant to this subdivision shall be in addition to any other points earned during the state disaster emergency.

East Greenbush Report

Submitted by: peter lehmann

The East Greenbush Fire Company continues to respond to the challenges presented by the ongoing affects of the Covid-19 pandemic. For the past several years, the Fire Company has hosted a very successful series of fish fry nights during the Lenten season, with the dining room filled to capacity. This year, it was impossible. However, the Fire Company developed a Covid-19 safe method to conduct fish fry nights, which took the form of a three week drive through event! Health screened EGFD members took their normal cooking and serving positions and made this popular inside event an outside reality. Among those helping out, Hudson Valley Ladies Auxiliary Past President Karen McDonald, who was instrumental in assembling the meals for takeout. The public generously supported the Fire Company and we hope that our 2021 fish fry events are back in our banquet hall. Along the same line, the Fire Company will be hosting a drive-thru BBQ Fundraiser featuring a Giffey's delicious chicken dinner on August 6th at our Main Station. Honoring those firefighters who made the fire service what it is today, the Fire Company participated in the Rensselaer County day at the Fireman's Hudson home on July 12th and took part in the day's apparatus parade for the residents.

As we miss the people and events that make the volunteer fire service what it is, we all want to get back to normal as soon as we can. Therefore, join us in wearing your masks, staying socially distant and keep your hands clean!



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**

TO: