



THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER

Volume No. 2020 Issue 02

October 2020

A Message from 1st Vice President Robert Outhouse

Greetings HVVFA members. I hope this message finds you all safe and healthy. I would thank you, the membership, for your continued support. Without you, it would be impossible to reach our goals each year.

Congratulations to Past President Jack Delaney. Jack was faced with an historic year with the Covid-19 Pandemic. It was Jack's leadership and guidance that kept our association functioning over the last seven months. I personally wish Jack the best of luck in the future and look forward to working with him as a Past President. Congratulations to the newly elected officers, Secretary Courtney Davidson and Director Robert Fritsche.

Words cannot express the sincere gratitude we have for our Secretary Emeritus June Gunza. It was a happy and extremely emotional day to have both John and June present at our Annual Meeting. It was an honor to have seen the title of "Secretary Emeritus" bestowed upon June for her years of dedicated work to our great association. Thank you, June, we will miss you and always wish you well. President Karashay, Vice President Eck and I are committed to continuing to keep this great association moving forward in this "new normal". President Karashay has set his goals for 2020-2021, and they are very achievable with your help.

Some of his items of focus 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 distribute our newsletter, send out notices and other communications electronically, which means only 10% of our members will see this. This needs to be rectified, and President Karashay has asked the County VPs to focus on this for the association. So, if you know your friends are members of HVVFA, ask them if they received this communication. If they haven't, please have them email Joe Mellan to update their email at bc1.mellan@gmail.com with the subject "UPDATE MY EMAIL". If your department is a 100% membership, please reach out to Joe and supply him with email addresses of your membership so that they can receive important association updates and a copy of this publication.

President Karashay has formed an IT committee to ensure there is access to association records, one uniform email distribution list, and to ensure the data is kept in a safe environment. He has also formed a Traditions and Procedures Committee to ensure they are looking at our operational procedures, to include items such as how we would function going forward in pandemics such as Covid-19.

We are always looking for new members for committee positions, if you are interested please reach out to President Karashay or 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. As we continue to operate this association under this "new normal" future events are being planned as usual and will be adjusted accordingly due to state, local and federal guidelines. Please be patient as the Presidents and the Board of directors make these adjustments for your health and safety.

The board has approved funding to put on a full dinner at the home for all members and staff. They will be receiving a placemat and a flashlight from the Association. This will be in lieu of Hudson Valley day at the Home. This dinner will coincide with our Hudson Valley Legislative conference on September 27, 2020 at the Patterson FD Pavilion.

I would like to remind all members that the Hudson Valley VFA Daily Lottery Number Raffle for 2021 is in full swing. If you need tickets, please reach to Paul O'Brien, Jeanne O'Brien or Angela Outhouse. If you currently have sold tickets, please get them back to the committee members as soon as possible. Please continue to sell these tickets. This is our major fundraiser.

Congratulations to the newly elected FASNY President, John Farrell and the rest of the FASNY newly elected officers. We look forward to John's leadership over the next two years and will continue to support President Farrell's agenda. At the time of this article, FASNY membership is open for registration for mail-in ballots for the 2nd Vice Presidents seat. When you receive this article, the process of mail-in balloting will have been initiated. All ballots MUST be filled in correctly and post marked by October 7, 2020. As you all are aware, HVVFA Past President and Past FASNY Director Santo "Chan" Rivera is in a contested race. PLEASE, RETURN YOUR BALLOT AND SUPPORT CHAN IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION.

Please stay safe and healthy during these times of uncertainty. I hope to see you at our quarterly meeting in Saugerties on October 25, 2020 at 1:00 pm.

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

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

November 15, 2020 for the December edition!

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

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT MICHAEL KARASHAY

VICE-PRESIDENTS

1st VP Robert Outhouse 2nd VP Walter Eck, Jr

Recording Secretary

Courtney Davidson

Financial Secretary

Joseph Mellan

Treasurer

Harry Barrett

Jr Past President

Jack Delaney

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Fritsche, Robin Reynolds, Eric Orr, Yale Frank, John Cassidy Sr, Christopher Kilmartin, James Hartwick, Edward Butler Jr

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

Liaison: Director Eric Orr

Editor Fran Galu, Chairperson

Marilyn Schrader, Vice Chairperson

Susan Mehan and all County VP's.

Liaison to Ladies Auxiliary HVVFA

Diana Balling

ADVERTISING RATES

*All rates are per issue**

Business Card - \$25

Half Page - \$65

Quarter Page \$40

Full Page - \$125

Members' Campaign Ads @ Costs Shown Above

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

Memorial/Sponsor Page donations \$100

Our next deadline is:

November 15, 2020

Editor's Update -Fran Galu

Hello everyone,

Happy Fall to everyone, I just love this weather!

I want to thank everyone who submitted articles for this edition, I truly hope we can keep this level of support for the HVVFA Firefighter newsletter.

COVID19 is still impacting our everyday activities, near and far. Stay vigilant with wearing your mask, practicing social distancing. The holidays are coming quickly, starting with Halloween. These times will be tough on all of us, but let's enjoy the season and our family while be safe!

It's that time again, get your FLU shot! We definitely do not need the flu on top of everything else. Of course, this is just my opinion.

Lastly I will simply say – Please VOTE!

I don't care who you vote for – but please cast your VOTE and be counted!

Hope you enjoy this issue as much as I have enjoyed putting it together – lots of information inside!

Respectfully,

Fran Galu

Editor

Proudly serving our community for over 130 years

**For
Low-Interest Financing**

Call (518) 943-2600

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

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



2021 Award Nominations

- ## HVVFA FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chairman: Ed Butler, Jr

Ed Butler, Jr

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

depchfuggybear@aol.com

Chairmen: Douglas C Mann, Thomas With

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

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**

Rockland County Report

Submitted by: Nick Gatti, rcvp

CHAPLAIN FRANK KNOWER

It is with deep regret we announce the passing of RCVFA 50-year Life Member Franklin Kowner on Sept. 4. Frank was a long-time RCVFA Chaplain who joined the Assn. in 1970. He was the RCVFA president in 1983 and was a past-president of the Hudson Valley VFA. He also formerly led the NYS Fireman's Chaplains Assn.. Frank was a member of the Vol. Fire Assn. of Tappan and served on the Fire Police there. He served as a chaplain for the County Fire Chief's Assn., County Fire Police Assn., and NJ&NY VFA and was a former Rockland County Fire Advisory Board member. A firematic graveside service was held Sept. 12, at the Tappan Cemetery.

WE MOURN THEIR PASSING

Jason Weinger died May 16, 2020, age 57. He was an 18-year active Hook & Ladder Co. 1, Suffern member. Jason also served as a member of the Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Dept in Ocean Beach, NY from 1981 - 1994, as well as the Melbourne Beach Volunteer Fire Dept. in Melbourne Beach FL from 1982 - 1985 while attending college. He was a RCVFA member joining 2012. Jason leaves behind his wife and three children.

Roman Wdowiak died May 22, 2020, age 68. RCVFA Life Member (1989), Brandon VT joining July 2007, former Fire Chief, Spring Valley Hook & Ladder Co. 1. since 1990, serving as a line officer, Dunmore Hose Company, Sec/Treas. He was honored by RCVFA for a 1993 fire and Unit Citation in 1997, by RCFCA IN 1993 & 2005, and Spring Valley FD's Louis Furman Valor Award in 2004.

Richard Balogh died May 6, 2020, age 93. He was a member of New City Fire Dept. and a RCVFA Life Member joining in 1963. He passed at his home in Boynton Beach, FL.

Pauline "Honey" Goswick, died July 22, 2020, age 88. Pauline was a life member of both the Piermont Fire Department and the Empire Hose Company 1 Ladies Aux, where she was past president and a 62-year member. She was also one of the first dispatchers for the Piermont Fire Department ambulance which was used prior to the 911 system. She was a RCFVA Life Member, joining in 1995. She was the mother of ex-Chief Dan Goswick Sr. and grandmother of current Chief Dan Goswick Jr.

Mike Rooney died July 31, 2020, age 60. He was an ex-Chief of Hillcrest Fire Company. He was a RCVFA Life Member, joining in 1989.

DAY AT THE HOME DONATION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Rockland-Westchester Day at the Home visit was canceled this year. But thanks to the generosity of; Alert Hook, Ladder & Engine Co., Hillcrest Fire Co., Nanuet Fire Engine, New City Fire Engine, Orangeburg FD, Columbian Engine, Volunteer Hose Co. 2, West Nyack Engine, David B. Roche Fire Co and the RCVFA, a check for \$1,500 was mailed to the Home's Operation Small Change. Thanks to the companies who participated.

SAFETY OFFICER ELECTS OFFICERS

On Wed, Aug 19 the RC Safety Officers held their meeting at Hillcrest 6-100. Officers for 2020-21 are:

Pres.	Pete Carney FD 6
Vice-Pres.	Nick Gatti Sr. FD 13
2 nd Vice-Pres.	Lisa Castaldo FD 23
Fin. Sec.	Doug Perry FD 7
Treas.	Frank Youngman FD 6
Rec. Sec.	Mike Leitner FD 9
Sgt-at-Arms	John Stuercke FD 21
CHAPLAIN	

Rudy Hanson FD 12
Glenn Zahlmann FD 6
Doug Volpicella FD 15

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Glenn Zahlmann FD 6
Lisa Castaldo FD 23
Tom Bierds FD 14
Bob Miller FD 3

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Bud Conjura FD 17
Don Arterburn FD 12
Frank Youngman FD 6

Due to COVID-19 all future meetings will be at 6-100 7:30 p.m. until further notice. Refreshments will be served, bring your mug and mask, social distancing required.

ANDREW FREDERICKS SCHOLARSHIP

This year's RC Fire Instructors Assn. Andrew Fredericks Scholarship winners are:

Tara Bertolino, she is a Firefighter with Vol. Hose Co. 2, West Haverstraw FD, daughter of Joe Bertolino. She went to North Rockland high school and will be going to SUNY Univ. at Albany in the Fall for Criminal Justice.

Daniel Stryko, a firefighter with Hillburn FD, son of Irving Stryko. He went to Suffern high school, will be going to SUNY Plattsburgh in the Fall for Environmental Science.

They each received \$1,500.00 from the Assn..

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

Hudson Valley VFA Ladies Auxiliary held their Annual Meeting –finally –on August 16. Thank you to Shaker Road-Loudonville for opening their hall for our meeting. This was a very shorter version of a convention meeting.

All officers gave their reports as of June 2020. Elections were held with the following results:

- President Beth Brundage
- 1st Vice President Alison Rivenburgh
- 2nd Vice President Judy Parsells
- Recording Secretary Sheri King
- Financial Secretary Diana Balling
- Treasurer Marie Delawder –
- 1 Year Director Catherine Johnson
- 2 Year Director Diane Conklin
- 3 Year Gina-Marie Pacicca
- 4 Year Kathie Wood
- 5 Year Lisa Novella

Officers were installed by HVVFA Past President Jack Delaney. Congratulations to all the 2020-2021 Officers. Chaplain Vickie Dichian conducted a very beautiful Memorial Service. The following members were remembered: Members: MaryLou Nash, Nancy Ferretti, Linda Beska, Julie Bushell, Joanne Hill and Honorary Members: William Buckmaster, Robert Ehlers, Donald McCaig, Rick Pennney. Our sincere condolences to the families of all of the above. May they fly with the Angels.

LA-HVVFA will be doing a November Daily Drawing Fundraiser. For a small cost of \$5.00 per ticket you will have a chance to win two times per day. There are two numbers on each ticket (001 & 501) with a limit of 500 tickets sold.

The winning number is determined by the evening NYS daily drawing.

- \$50.00 will be awarded each Friday
- \$25.00 the other 6 days of the week.
- On the last day of the month the lucky winner will receive \$100.00.
- We also pay one number above and one number below the winning number \$7.50.

To get your tickets contact Karen McDonald at:

- Email-- kmcdonald@earthlink.net
- Phone: 518-477-4351,
- Text or Call Cell: 518-339-9605.

Please include your name and contact information on all requests.

Gift idea for any occasion: If anyone is interested in purchasing merchandise with the Ladies Auxiliary Logo on it, Susan Mehan has made it really easy to place an order. Please go to the following link to view merchandise and place your order:

<http://tinyurl.com/lahvvfamerch>. Money must be sent to Sue prior to the order going in. Sue can be reached for any questions you might have at: sussysue312@gmail.com or phone her at 518-281-3459.

Please mark your calendar for the upcoming Past President's Dinner honoring Past President Jack Delaney. Date is January 23, 2021 and it will be held at the Best Western Plus Hotel and Conference Center – Washington Ave – Kingston. More details to come.

As we enter into the last part of 2020 –please stay safe. Always remember to wear your mask and wash your hands. Social distancing is a must. It's the only way we will survive and get back to a normal life.



Picture above: President Beth Brundage, 1st VP Alison Rivenburgh, Recording Secretary Sheri King, Financial Secretary Diana Balling, Treasurer Marie Delawder and 5 Year Director Lisa Novella. Not present: 2nd VP Judy Parsells

Dutchess County Report**Submitted by: JOHN POMARICO, DCPV**

I would like to thank the HVVFA the opportunity to serve under the presidency of Mike Karashay 2020-2021 as your new County VP for Dutchess, I would be remiss not mentioning my predecessor Mike Carter for the job he did during his tenure.

Don't forget September 11th is an important day in the fire service, when 343 members spread out in different ranks that lost their lives at the World Trade Center, by the time you receive this the day will be over & done with ,but not forgotten .

This year hasn't been exciting due to the pandemic of the Corona Virus, all the parades & outings were cancelled.

Some fire companies met during this time, abiding 6ft social distancing or either by zoom / via tele conference

As per HVVFA Financial Secretary request, all county VP's to get their companies in their county to get a e-mail list together for of members belonging to the association, making it easier to send out important information to all

Remember to pray for all the departed brothers & sisters that you have lost to the sicknesses out there in the world

“LUCK of the IRISH?”

Some people are just naturally lucky. Mr. William C. Rosenhagen, Jr. seems to be one of those persons. Of course, Billy takes his share of chances when he is out and about. This year, with the FASNY FIREMEN’S HOME being on lockdown due to the COVID-19 Virus, those taking the raffles from the Central New York Volunteer Firemen’s Association should have had an ‘upper hand’ in this arena. Well guess again. Somebody got to Billy at the Home and he bought a ticket or two. Billy was mighty surprised when the Administrative Staff showed up at his room door with the whopping winning check, and made the presentation to him. In Billy’s true feeling of thanks, he took a portion of his winnings and made a contribution to the Home’s RESIDENTS COUNCIL MEMORIAL FUND, so that others could gain some advantage of his good luck too.

It should be noted that earlier this year, many firemanic groups gathered boxes of wares (books, games, CDs, tapes, sweet type goodies, and more) for the Residents to utilize during the Pandemic “LOCKDOWN”. One of the nearby nursing homes was particularly hard hit with the Virus cases, and their patients/residents needed some ‘cheering up’. In true VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING FASHION, the Residents of the Firemen’s Home gathered up some of their goodies to help the other home’s patients in their ‘time of need’. I guess, ‘once a volunteer, always a volunteer’, we never outgrow that yen.

Submitted by: John Balling

Pictured: (left) Sophia Kamenovsky, Social Services Director, accepting Billy’s donation; (right) Billy Rosenhagen, with his winning check from CNYVFA.



Albany County Report

Submitted by: BUTCH RECCHIA, ACVP

Hudson Valley Day at the home was successful, unfortunately no one could attend but we were able to present the meal and a small gift to the residents and staff.

The Hudson Valley annual meeting was held at the PACC in Albany New York where we conducted the memorial service in the business and also had elections it was a very successful and profitable day

The Colonie Elks is contacting the chief for all Colonie fire departments to give the fire fighter of the year awards it is usually held here at the Elks unfortunately with the Covid virus we cannot do like we have in past years.



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

Orange County Report

Submitted by: Dorothy Brown, OCVP

Greetings! Fall is here!

Orange County Volunteer Firemen’s Association hosted their first county meeting since March. It was held at Cronomer Valley Fire Department. It was great to see everyone. At the meeting we discuss what has been happening with all the fire department. The departments in the county had to cancel a lot of these events because of Corvid 19. They reported they are starting to have their company meetings and hope next year will be better. President Robert Reynolds announce the OCVFA Convention Parade was cancel. OCVFA will be still be holding the convention meeting in September. The Day at the Home had to be cancelled this year. The great news the county decided to sponsor a luncheon the residences and staff. So, on September 5, 2020 we sponsor a Chicken and Rib Barbecue for the home, and they enjoy it so much. At our meeting we had our nominations for upcoming officers for 2021 which will be voted on at September meeting. Hope to see everyone then.



Saugerties Resident Elected President of LAFASNY

With no conventions or even in person meetings being held due to COVID, the Ladies Auxiliary of the wasn't quite the way that Saugerties resident Diana Balling expected to be elected and installed as President of LAFASNY but flexibility has become the word of the day!

On August 19, LAFASNY Past President Dianne Werner of Rockland County served as Installing Officer from her living room. Newly elected officers wore white tops instead of long white gowns. It was a very impressive ceremony despite being done on Zoom.

Diana Balling did not grow up in a volunteer family. She married a volunteer firefighter - her husband of 51 years and firefighter of 56 years, John Balling. He was a firefighter of Kiskatom Fire Department (Greene County) when they married and transferred to Saxton Fire Company (Ulster County). He remains her biggest supporter and chauffeur at times.

She joined Kiskatom Ladies Auxiliary in the early 70's before transferring to Saxton Ladies Auxiliary where she has resided for over 50 years. In Saxton, she has held leadership roles for many years and is currently the treasurer. Diana currently rejoined Kiskatom (while also remaining with Saxton LA) and helps out with fundraising events. On the county auxiliary level, Diana is currently Treasurer of Ulster County VFA Ladies Auxiliary but has served as President for two different terms. She is also a member of Greene County VFA Ladies Auxiliary as well as Albany County VFA Ladies Auxiliary. In GCVFA-LA, she currently sits on the Audit Committee and in ACVFA-LA she serves on the Sunshine Committee. Any auxiliary she belongs to, she must be active!

Working her way to state level, she joined the Hudson Valley VFA Ladies Auxiliary. This sectional auxiliary covers 16 counties from Westchester County in the south to Warren County in the north. Again, she travels up and down the Hudson Valley region attending meetings. She has served as Secretary for many years and is currently the Financial Secretary. If that wasn't enough to handle, add another sectional: Hudson Mohawk VFA Ladies Auxiliary. She is currently in her 2nd year as President.

Diana then found out there was a state auxiliary. She joined LAFASNY at her first convention while attending as a delegate for the Saxton Ladies Auxiliary. After a year, she was approached by the President at the time to run for 5 Year Director. This was a decision not taken lightly. This meant traveling all over the state. The decision was made and the rest is history. Diana has served as Director for 5 years followed by 6 years as Financial Secretary and finally as 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President to now President.

All the auxiliaries from local to state level have one thing in common: working behind the scenes for our volunteers in the Fire Service. Auxiliaries are there not to just run coffee/food to the scene of a bad fire! They work with the various sectionals and with Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY) to get legislation passed that benefits our frontline men and women. Additionally, when contacted LAFASNY is a wealth of information in helping organize new auxiliaries. LAFASNY also supports the Firemen's Home in Hudson NY (nursing home for volunteer firefighters, their spouses and auxiliary members) and promotes programs on fire education, prevention and awareness proposed by the volunteer firefighters in the State of New York.

The next two years will be challenging ones as COVID is still here and social distancing and wearing of masks must continue. We are confident that eventually things will get back to normal. In the meantime, flexibility has been the key word. When something is normally done one way and no longer can be done – another way is found! LAFASNY continues working in the background to accomplish the goals of the organization. Diana is proud to be part of this process for the next two years and to represent the Town of Saugerties and the County of Ulster at the state level.

It might seem that Diana only volunteered during her lifetime! Diana, a graduate of Saugerties High School, also worked for over 22 years at Adirondack Trailways in Kingston before retiring in 2012. She has a son, Derek (daughter in law Debbie) who currently live in Ireland. She has been a Cub Scout Leader, Cookie Leader for her neighbor's Brownie Troop, and currently is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 72. Time management seems to be the key to juggling all these commitments.

Congratulations to Diana Balling, a Saugerties native, on reaching this high level in the state ladies' auxiliary, Ladies Auxiliary of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

Putnam County Report

Submitted by: Luann Edele, PCVP

Greetings everyone!! Though I was hoping that by this issue we could all be writing about our “back-on-our-calendar” events for year-end, it appears that’s not the case ... yet! But I’m optimistic because we have come so very far in the last six months, from not being able to leave our houses to now having in-house meetings & indoor dining (with capacity limitations, but still!) ... slowly, we’re getting there!

Speaking of meetings, I’d be remiss if I didn’t send Putnam’s congratulations to HVVFA President Mike Karashay, VPs Bob Outhouse and Bill Eck, Recording Secretary Courtney Davidson and all of the Directors and County VPs who finally were able to be sworn in at the July 29 Convention meeting. I know that you all will serve our Association in its best interests and I look forward to working with you as the newly elected chairperson of the County Vice-Presidents. I wish former chair, John Coyle IV, the best in his campaign efforts for next year’s elections.

I’m happy to report that Putnam County’s departments are starting to move back to in-house meetings! Though there are some restrictions with regard to having ‘guests’ inside each firehouse, the actual membership meetings have resumed in most ‘houses, with the required guidelines, of course! With many members still cautious about gathering, some department meetings are being done both virtually and in-person, allowing participation whether you’re in the room or not! We are all learning the power of technology, as it’s allowing us to continue to do business despite not being face-to-face!

Even the Putnam County 9-11 Memorial Service this year, physically held in Carmel, was virtually viewable, though quite a few members of various County Departments did show up in full dress uniform, safely masked, to show physical support of those many who were lost that terrible day.

As of this writing there are no definitive plans – except canceled ones – regarding this year’s Fire Prevention open houses and classroom trainings throughout our County, which I’m sure is not unique. Brewster FD is answering this dilemma with the idea of filming movie shorts created in its firehouse by members and using virtual training for school-aged children. Another of our Departments, Lake Carmel, has had its plans hindered by the High School’s month-delayed opening and other departments are busily deciding how to make this year work!

Despite the situation, our County Association is moving forward with its annual support of our Departments’ efforts by providing portable hand sanitizers as this year’s giveaway to provide to the schools and community, however possible. Fire Prevention or not, we need to keep our newly learned habits going!

Our Bureau of Emergency Services, closed all summer except for student training, has reopened for “minimal attendance” meetings. The summer lockdown affected the County Fire Police Response Team, Emergency Safety Services and even our County Association directors’ meetings. However by the time you’re reading this we’ll have had our first County Assn. board meeting there since January!

With much gratitude from our end, Patterson FD’s Pavilion has been getting a lot of use, with not only the Putnam County VFA, Westchester County Judges and Putnam County Chiefs meetings being held there, but also allowing us to have the HVVFA legislative meeting there on Sept 27! In addition, I’d like to thank both the Kent VFD (obo our County Ladies) and the Mahopac Falls FD (obo our County Association) for allowing these associations to meet there. As a current and past President of each association, I am most appreciative to both Departments for opening its doors to us when most could not. I know it took a lot to make those decisions!

In closing let me say how hopeful I am that by the time our next articles are due we will once again be looking towards breakfasts with Santa, candy cane runs and holiday parades ... but till then, stay safe, stay sanitized and stay strong!

WESTCHESTER COUNTY REPORT

Submitted by: TARA SCARDUZIO, WCVF

Although 2020 has proven to be a very challenging year, and the full Westchester County Convention was cancelled, we were able to have our Annual meeting in Ossining on September 20th. Ossining Fire Department has graciously offered to host our County Convention in 2021.

We are proud to announce that the new Officers of WCVFA are as follows:

Pres Robert Fritsche, Washington H&L Co. #2
 1st Vice Pres: Angela Outhouse, Buchanan Eng Co. #1
 2nd Vice Pres: Donald Farrell, Cataract Hose Co. #2
 Jr. Past Pres: John E. Delaney, Buchanan Eng Co. #1
 Secretary: Jeanne O’Brien, Verplanck Fire Prot. Assoc
 Treasurer: Dominick DiPierro, Columbian Hose Co. #1
 Fin Secretary: Tara Scarduzio, Ossining Hose Co. #1
 Sgt at Arms: Robert Boddie, Columbian Hose Co. #1
 Chaplain: Robert Morrison, Verplanck Fire Prot. Assoc.
 Chaplain: Robert Ruston, Somers Fire Department
 Directors:
 Mickey Fritsche, Ossining FD
 David K. Hogan, Ogden Engine Co. #1
 Tony Chu, Ossining FD
 Thomas Bock, Elmsford Fire Co. #1
 Fran Grosso, Hawthorne FD
 Peter G. Saracelli, Hope Hose Co. #1, Tarrytown
 Marty Gunther, Hastings on Hudson FD
 Paul Whittman, Livingston Hose Co. #1, Dobbs Ferry

Columbia County Report

Submitted by: Barbara Fischer, CCVP

The Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association members met on September 9, 2020 at the Stuyvesant Falls Fire house with less than 50 people and while following social distance guidelines. A Prayer was lead by Chaplain Dan Herrick followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Tim Trowbridge, who had been filling in as the “Acting President” for the 95th Annual Firefighters Convention, which was not held this year due to COVID-19, was sworn in as the 2020-2021 President of the 96th Columbia County Firefighters Convention at this 95th Annual meeting. Hopefully the convention will go on in July of 2021 with most of the festivities being held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in the Stuyvesant Falls district. Hudson Mohawk Volunteer Firefighters Association Past President and Past Director of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association, David Chapman, swore in all newly elected officers in attendance.

Officers for the 2020-2021 Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association are:
 Timothy Trowbridge- President (Stuyvesant Falls)
 Larry Ostrander- 1st Vice President (Philmont)
 Kyle Wilber- 2nd Vice President (Ghent)
 Edward Snow- Treasurer (Greenport)
 Henry Swartz- Financial Secretary (Niverville)
 Laura Foster- Secretary (Germantown)
 Mark Taylor- Director 2027 (Greenport)- (This will be the 100th Anniversary of the Greenport Fire District).

A Special Thank You and Congratulations was expressed to Frank Bevens as he retired from the position of Financial Secretary after 10 years!

A 95th Annual Convention Yearbook was still distributed even though the convention was not held. If anyone would like a copy of the yearbook, please contact an association member. It was very hard getting ads this year due to the virus. Some of the “regular” businesses who normally place an advertisement, did not do so this year although 132 ads were still sold. Hopefully next year will be better.

Historian Jeff French stated that the first time the Stuyvesant Falls Fire Company sponsored a convention was in 1932. They held another one in 1934 and again in 1966.

The Firefighter of the Year Award will be given out at a later time to be determined. It is still undetermined whether there will be a Christmas Party at the Firemen’s Home due to the virus. More information will be given out as soon as made possible due to the status of the virus.

Columbia County Fire Chiefs Association Liaison, Wally Engel, reported that the Fire Safety Trailer is now offline for the remainder of the year and until further notice due to the virus.

Columbia County Fire Coordinator, George Keeler, reported that the new training center is now up and running to hold classes. A few items still need to be installed and they are now taking reservations from fire companies to attend vehicle fire training and other classes. OFPC outreach classes have resumed with limited attendance and they are also following all CDC Guidelines. A Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations class has been up and running since August 4th at the new training facility. A Fire Police School will begin in mid October. OFPC is looking for letters of interest from anyone who may be interested in being Fire Instructors and/or Skills Instructors. Contact OFPC for more information or the Coordinators office.

President Trowbridge announced the meeting attendance winners for the highest number of fire company members in attendance for the October 2019-January 2020 meetings combined. There are normally more meetings held but due to COVID-19 that did not happen.

The 1st place winner was Mellenville Fire Company with 33 members combined for the two meetings. The 2nd place winner was Philmont with 28 members and 3rd place was Valatie with 18 members attending. The Directors of the Association will meet in October with the rest of the Association meeting for the Quarterly meeting in January of 2021.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of all those who lost their lives due to COVID-19, especially the front line and essential workers.

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

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

Hello everyone! Hope y'all are staying healthy during this time. It's now getting quite chilly out during the nighttime and early mornings, but Hey why not make 2020 a little crazier right? Only 3 Months left!

Wallkill Fire Department as well as Modena Rescue have had chicken BBQ'S. Both companies had sold out of tickets to the events which was great during these hard times. Remember if you see an event posted to social media about another company's event please share at the very least and if you can try and support that event by attending or buying a ticket, especially right now when it's hard for departments to raise money in fundraisers due to the pandemic. Wallkill Fire Department has started up their Pancake Breakfast again, be on the look out for the event on Facebook. The Breakfast is the first Sunday of the month and runs from 7a-12p. Social distancing and masks are required.

Training in the county has started back up again since July but not to the full extent. The firefighter Summer Boot camp was the first to start back up. The summer boot camp is a 3-week class that runs from 8am- 5pm on the days met and gives the students many different certifications when graduating from the class including the basic FF1. This class is an outstanding way for members of departments to get the classes needed plus some in a short but hard-working amount of time instead of spending countless months and hours doing the classes separately. It is truly a great experience to go through this class as I had back in 2018. Be on the look out for signups for the 2021 boot camp around March of next year. Other FF1 classes were able to start up again that began prior to Covid and were put on hold. Other FF1 classes are set to be starting up if the pandemic allows.

Be on the lookout for the recently graduated FF1 students as well as future FF1 graduates with Blue nomex hoods. The Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association (UCVFA) had approved and started to give out the nomex hoods with the UCVFA name and logo on it at the Graduations. This is a great thing and shows that the graduating students show support from the Association.

There is a County weekend coming up. On October 3rd and 4th The County is having a training weekend at the new training center at Ulster landing. This weekend is broken into two days with 50 students allowed each day. The weekend will provide training in engine and

truck company operations, Standpipe operations, as well as the flashover simulator. This is a great opportunity for people to see and use the new facility. Be sure to submit the applications ASAP as spots are filling quick.

As most counties have done Ulster has canceled the convention parade. The parade was supposed to be hosted by Ulster Hose Fire Department. There was still a convention meeting the night of September 25th. Let's all hope and pray we can have a parade next year.

It's that time of the year again Fire Prevention! With many school districts not attending in person it's going to be difficult to get out to people. Make sure your respective departments do not give up and get out there to advertise and educate people on Fire Prevention. REMEMBER this shouldn't only be done this one week a year we need to do it year-round!!!

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

As you all know COVID19 pretty much cancelled everything down here. The Annual Sullivan County Firefighter's Association parade on Saturday, September 26th was cancelled. The Past President's Brunch at the Eagles' Nest Sunday, September 20th was cancelled. The county meetings for the past couple of months have been cancelled. The Sullivan County Firefighter's Association held a meeting on August 11th in Hortonville. The Woodbourne Fire Department Annual Chicken BBQ has been cancelled. I would like to take a moment just to touch base with you on my health. On June 2nd I was taken to the hospital and was diagnosed with a minor seizure. As a result, I am on medication and per the NYS DMV I am not allowed to drive for one year. My attendance at meetings will be very limited during this time. I will try to make the meetings if and when I can.

Why do we commemorate Fire Prevention Week?

Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the Great Chicago Fire. The fire occurred on October 9, 1871. It killed 300 people and left 100,000 homeless.

When was the first fire department organized in the United States?

A large fire in Boston, in 1679, led to the organization of the first paid fire department in America. The city imported a fire engine from England and employed a chief and 12 firefighters. The first volunteer Fire Company was formed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1736. Benjamin Franklin served as America's first Volunteer Fire Chief.

Ulster County Report

Submitted by: Lance Booth, UCVP

The Greene County Vol. Fireman's Association's Annual Convention September 8-12 was canceled due to COVID 10. The Association is providing a Convention Book thanking/honoring past supporters of conventions at no cost to the businesses that had provided that support. The Association Convention committee will be selling T-shirts, sweat shirts, glassware, and challenge coins to support the association and to remember the non-convention. These items and costs will be on the Association face book page. The association along with a few county fire companies picked up the full costs of this book. Next year's Greene County Convention will be hosted by Cornell Hook & Ladder Company in the Town of New Baltimore. The dates are September 7- 11, 2021. A congratulations to Greene County's own John P. Farrell of the West Athens Limestone Vol. Fire Company, Greene County and Hudson Valley past President as he was installed as FASNY President in August.

Round Top Fire Department held a wet down for their new Tanker on September 12.

Coxsackie Hose #3 (Yale Frank's company) had a wet down September 19 for their new tanker.

West-Athens Limestone will have their fall chicken BBQ on October 18 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. \$13 for take out only.

Athens Fire Department could not hold their annual banquet this year so at their August meeting their presented the annual service awards. Fred Van Loan their Chaplain Emeritus who many in the Valley know was awarded his 65 Years of Service award.

Greene County Association and Tannersville Fire Department had sad news on September 9 with the passing of Life member of Tannersville Fire Department and Past President of Greene County Volunteer Fireman's Association. David Kinney held many offices with Tannersville over the years including Captain of the Rescue Squad, Assistant Chief, and Secretary/Treasurer of rescue Squad.

**JOSEPH F. KELLY MEMORIAL
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Joseph F. Kelly Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Jim Gage of the Saugerties Fire Department at their meeting on August 27, 2020, this is normally done at our convention but due to Covid-19 restrictions we had to change where and when we presented it. This worked out well presenting it at his company meeting. All present were proud and Jim was surprised. As always it was difficult to pick one person from all the nominee's. The nomination information will be available in a few weeks. Please, if anyone knows someone who they feel is deserving of the award, please do your research and collect as much information as possible. Fill out the packet as best as you can. Any questions feel free to call me at my home 845-647-6472 or my cell 845-283-9229. My e-mail is catfirerick@aol.com where I can also be reached.



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

HV Legislative Committee

Submitted by: James Hartwick

**FASNY Legislative Conference
November 7th – 8th Troy, NY**

The annual legislative conference is a gathering of Sectional legislative representatives from around the State with the FASNY Legislative committee, the officers and directors of FASNY and representatives of the lobby firm ASA Governmental Affairs.

Recommendations submitted prior to the conference from the Sectionals will be compiled, reviewed and discussed on Saturday. The representatives will work together to finalize the Association's legislative priorities for the State Legislature in 2021. A final agenda will be developed and printed for review and ratification at the General Assembly meeting on Sunday.

Thus far, the logistics for the conference are still being formulated based on the Covid-19 guidelines that must be followed pertaining to large gatherings and the requirements of the hotel, the Troy Hilton Garden. It's possible the conference will be virtual or a combination of some being able to attend and the others on virtual. Stay tuned for updates on the FASNY website or their Volunteer Fire Fighter News.

Legislation Cracking Down on Illegal Building Alterations

As a result of Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski working closely with the Illegal Housing Task Force in Rockland County, he has led efforts to improve fire safety throughout the State. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of buildings that have been altered in ways that create dangerous situations for both tenants and first responders. These building alterations can impede egress from the building and prevent a safe evacuation during emergencies. In many instances, these unsafe conditions have placed residents and firefighters at serious risk of injury or death. There have been countless examples of owners changing the layout of buildings, specifically multi-family dwellings that creates illegal apartments or utilizes attics and basements as living spaces without proper exits.

This bill (A3343) seeks to enhance penalties that may be imposed for creating these unsafe conditions. The bill imposes penalties on building owners of up to \$7,500 for violations of the uniform fire prevention and building code that impede egress during a fire or emergency evacuation. Senator John Brooks a former Fire Chief on Long Island sponsored and led the fight to pass the bill in the Senate. The legislation has passed in the Assembly and the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's approval or veto.

h	y	d	r	a	n	t	h	j	h
b	a	d	g	e	p	d	o	g	e
o	l	a	i	s	k	t	s	e	l
o	a	p	l	f	i	r	e	f	m
t	r	u	a	g	e	u	t	r	e
s	m	d	d	b	c	c	k	e	t
n	a	c	d	h	r	k	w	t	q
s	a	f	e	t	y	s	l	a	r
v	h	c	r	o	f	m	e	w	d

Fire Safety Word Search

How fast can you complete this word search?

badge	truck	fire
alarm	dog	hose
safety	water	boots
ladder	hydrant	helmet



Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association
Past President Dinner
Honoring Past President Jack Delaney



Date January 23, 2021
Place Best Western Hotel
503 Washington Avenue, Kingston N.Y.
Room Rates \$129.00 per night with breakfast
Ask for HVVFA Rate 845-338-0400

Menu

Roast Prime Rib, Herb Stuffed Chicken Breast, Fillet of Sole
Cocktail Hour 6:00pm Dinner at 7:00pm

Make Checks Payable
to the WCVFA Fire Fighters Club. \$80 per person

Mail to Vincent Galvin 8506 Chelsea Cove Drive Hopewell Junction N.Y. 12533

Deadline for tickets Jan 5, 2021
Covid-19 precautions 8 to a table

:

HVVFA Past President's Dinner Journal

Jack Delaney



Organization_____ Contact Name_____

Address_____ City_____ State_____ zip_____

Email_____ Phone_____

Black & White _____Full Page 8.5 x 5.1/2_\$50 _____Half Page 5.125 x 4
____ Please create an add for me _____Please used enclosed Art Work

Checks Payable to Westchester County Fire Fighters Club

Please send your completed form and Payment by Dec 31, 2020

Please send artwork to mrvinnydcvfa@gmail.com

Please send order forms to
Vincent Galvin 8506 Chelsea Cove Drive, Hopewell Junction N.Y. 12533

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: