



THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER

Volume No. 2024 Issue 05

April 2025

From the desk of the 1st Vice President

Greetings everyone, well now that the days are longer and the weather is warmer, I hope this letter finds all of you and your families well. Since the last time I submitted a letter for the newsletter the Valley has been busy. Going to County Association meetings, presenting 50 year and up certificates and unfortunately attending wakes of our members that have answered their last alarm, also being able to see everyone and keeping them up to date with the goings on with updates and notices of upcoming events throughout the Hudson Valley. Most recently on March 15th Hughsonville Fire Department graciously hosted the Bill Eck & John Mulligan Haz-Mat Seminar. It was well attended and the committee did a great job with the three speakers that they had. On Sunday the 16th the Blue Vests held their meeting in Brewster which was well attended, followed by a delicious Corned Beef and Cabbage meal. It was a great job by all. 2025 HVVFA Convention update: As you know by now the Association is in charge of the convention this year which will be held in Lake George. Wednesday June 11th will be the 10th annual HVVFA Golf Outing at Cronin's Golf Resort in Warrensburg with a 12pm shotgun start. Hole sponsors are still available, so please have your association or local department support the outing by taking a hole sponsor. On Thursday the 12th the opening session of the convention opens. Convention meetings will be held at the Georgian Hotel. We have changed the agenda for Thursday's meeting, the plan is to condense the business and hold the training all in one session and eliminating the afternoon session. This will allow us to be finished by 12 – 12:30sh leaving the rest of Thursday afternoon open for everyone to attend other functions and not be under any time constraints. Thursday evening the committee has put together a Boat Cruise on the Lake. We will be departing the dock at 6pm, for \$35 you have the 3-hour boat ride along with passed around food and a cash bar. The flyer for the Boat Cruise is available on the website, or you can send your check to Karen Schrader at 3580 Schoharie Turnpike Leeds, NY 12451. You can send any questions to schraderleeds@aol.com. So please fill out your form and get it back to the committee, seats are going fast so I hope to see everyone on the boat. Friday will be the continuation of Association business along with the awards ceremonies. Friday night will be the annual Mardis Gras parade, line up for the parade will be at 5pm on Beach Rd facing towards Canada St. The parade will come down Beach Rd and make a right on to Canada St. with the parade ending up the hill at Shepherds Park where there will be a Block Party. Saturday is the annual Dress Parade through Lake George goes right down Canada St and ending at the Brewery just at the top of the hill. Line up is at 11am. The time for the Trophies will be announced at the meetings. Let's all have a safe and productive convention this year, it's nice to be back in Lake George. I would be remiss if I didn't give props to our local committee in Lake George for all of their hard work behind the scenes, Thank you all. Hudson Valley Website (hvvfa.com.) Please sign up in the member area and provide us your email. Both these means of communication provides us the ability to get vital Association information out to you in a timely manner. The web page has meeting dates, meeting minutes, newsletters, training sign-up sheets, and 50 year and anniversary Certificate requests. Board of Directors (BOD) will continue to meet monthly by Google meet between Quarterly Meetings This has been an effective way for BOD to operate and make decisions timely. The next Quarterly meeting will be held on April 27, 2025 in Lake George at the American Legion at 1pm, looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Ken Merriman Fire Police Seminar – April 26th at Cornell H&L Co. New Baltimore, Greene County

April HVVFA Quarterly Meeting – April 27th 1pm at the American Legion Lake George

Robert Fritsche
1st Vice President

PLEASE NOTE:

Greene County Report

Submitted by: Karen Schrader, GCVF

**Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association
Officers 2024-2025**

President - Ryan Schrader

1st VP – Jason Haines2nd VP – Jeffrey Coyne

Secretary - Liza Down

Treasurer – Karen Schrader

Fin. Secretary – George Stacey

137th GCVFA Convention will be hosted by Greenville VFC

September 2-6, 2025

The life of a volunteer firefighter isn't easy with time away from family all hours of the day and commitment to serving. Remember to take care of yourself and enjoy every moment with your families.

Events around Greene County

April

5 – Greenville VFD Spring craft sale, 8am-2pm

5 & 6 – Freehold VFD Spring Community Flea Market, Bake Sale and Open House, 9am-3pm

6 – Cossackie Hose #3 pancake breakfast with the Easter Bunny, 8am-12pm

18 – Greenville VFD fish fry, 4pm-6:30pm

19 – Athens VFD indoor garage sale, 10am-4pm

26 – D.M. Hamilton presents their dodge ball tournament to raise money for a boy with down syndrome who is a cancer survivor and a CCAM warrior. Contact Cheyenne Warren (518) 545-9077 for more details. Calling all first responders to come and play for Kaymen.

May

1 – GCVFA quarterly meeting being held at Athens VFD, food served at 6:30 with meeting following

June

1 – Greene County Day at the Home

Greene County Public Notice

Greene County Legislature passed tax law #1 of 2025, amendment to tax law #1 of 2023 to allow volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members that serve outside of their municipality to receive the real property tax credit.

Rensselaer County Report

Submitted by: Brenda Gausby, RCVP

Departments across the county are hosting installation banquets, fundraiser breakfasts, pizza nights and fish fries; dates and times available on their individual web-page, Facebook page or shared via the Rensselaer County Fire Chiefs Association (RCFCA) Facebook page.

RCFCA met January 20th at the Schodack Landing FD and set priorities for the year, discussed a cancer screening initiative, training needs across multiple departments and the officer's installation banquet which will take place in November. Next meeting is May 19th details available on the HVVFA calendar.

County response agencies gathered on February 20th at the Poestenkill FD for a presentation by Dr. Warren Hayashi, MD, NRP, CCEMTP Medical Director for Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety titled "EMS in CRISIS in Rensselaer County. The 100+ in attendance represented fire departments, ambulance squads, county elected officials, public safety staff and concerned residents. A second session is scheduled for March 19th at 7:00pm at the Center Brunswick Fire Company.

Of special note a Chili Cookoff to benefit the burn center and the Firefighter's Home in Hudson will take place on Sunday March 23rd from 1:00 – 4:00pm at Brown's Brewing Company in Troy NY.

Touch the truck events are planned for April 26/27th weekend. Multiple departments gather together at municipal parks and other centrally located places in their communities to recruit and engage with residents.



Putnam County Report

Submitted by: LuAnn Edele, PCVP

Spring has sprung and the songbirds are singing (and apparently me too!!)

We've a few things coming up in Putnam County and, with the season changing, surely my next article will have even more!

Brewster FD hosted the March 16th meeting of the Royal Order of the Blue Vests to its usual rave reviews! Members of the Firefighters' Home joined us for this annual meeting/luncheon, which was, of course! Corned Beef & Cabbage! Brewster does a wonderful job with this event, one that we look forward to every year! The turnout shows it!

Brewster FD will be holding a golf fundraiser this summer, plans are already in the works and August 11th has been set aside for the date. They are also having its "2024 Service Awards" on Saturday, April 12th at their Headquarters and its installation dinner is set for April 26th at the Candlewood Inn in Danbury, CT.

By the time you're reading this, Carmel FD's **Bowling fundraiser** will have already taken place and results will be announced, however, they are still moving forward with their Anniversary parade (July 19th) and certainly their annual golf outing... details forthcoming!

Our **County Association** participated for a second time in the **Dutchess County VFA's** museum fundraising bowling tournament, and once again "Team Doherty" came in First Place! PCVFA Financial Secretary Mike Doherty spearheads our team – and is co-chair to Carmel's bowling fundraiser! Fun fact – Dutchess will be participating in Carmel's fundraiser this year! I think we've established a great fundraising-with-pins partnership!

Speaking of County, the Putnam County VFA's installation dinner will be held on Friday, April 11th at the Centennial Grille Room in Carmel and our Putnam County **Ladies Auxiliary**, who, along with the Ladies Auxiliary Hudson Valley, are celebrating their 50 year anniversary this year! Plans are being made for a Hudson River sightseeing cruise to toast it being 50 years since Charter President **Davey Jean Beska** organized the Auxiliary in 1975. We have one Charter-signing member still active – **Carol Kraus** (Mahopac Falls Auxiliary) who is our Sgt-at-Arms. Our ladies are actively fundraising at this time (*Corey's Pickles, Chair Yoga, Bakeless Cake Sale ...*) in order to boost their coffers for this very special celebration!!

The above said, I wish all of you a very Happy Easter and a Blessed Passover. Enjoy Spring – it's the year's fresh start!

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fire Department

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flashing lights

bunker suits

jaws of life

fire truck

fire hose

accident

helmets

radios

people

siren

hurt

fire

Name: _____

Fire Safety

1. HIRUENSTEGE

2. FERITIMPTADRE

3. ELISUETCTH

4. ASPECE TURED

5. ENLNFIEC

6. SERGAE RIEP

7. LIETARISCE

8. SIPTO DROP LOWL

9. SAEPIC CHARET

10. SHPCIALESA

11. KRIDEY VTHE

12. NCBBRA AMIDEON ICHPCHDI

13. TFOESAOLIF

14. KNEOS ARLWA

15. NFLEAS

16. GNWYRCEEE

17. TVCHAME

18. EPORW TRSP

19. FMLANLEAD

20. CAHENG ESTACTREB

Word Bank:

Emergency

Grease Fire

Change Batteries

Flammable

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Extinguisher

Space Heater

Fireplace

Suffocate

Fire Department

Escape Route

Dryer Vent

Flames

Power Strip

Stop Drop Roll

Smoke Alarm

Cluttered

Chimney

Appliances

Electrical

HVVFA Ladies Auxiliary

Submitted by: Diana Balling

As this column is written, the temperature is heading up! Spring will be here before you know it. I know many of you love the winter months but not this writer! Happy Spring to All!

The April meeting of LAHVFA is fast approaching! Sunday, April 6, 2025 at the Firefighters Home in Hudson. Lunch is at noon at a small cost and the meeting starts at 1 pm.

The Ladies Auxiliary of Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association has been very busy during the last few months. Plans are being made to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of LAHVFA in June.

Many items were in the recent Chatterbox. Use this column as your reminder of some upcoming events. Note the following:

Convention starts for the auxiliary on Wednesday, June 11, with the Executive Board meeting and audit.

Thursday, June 12, the convention meeting will open at 10 am. Luncheon reservations must be made by May 25th thru Dianne Werner. In the evening of Thursday, HVVFA is sponsoring a boat ride in honor of LAHVFA 50th Anniversary. This is NOT a dinner cruise. It is a 3-hour cruise and departs at 6 pm. Please check the HVVFA website for complete details on the boat ride. Reservations for the boat ride are made thru HVVFA.

NOTE: Don't forget your Dark Secrets and/or Specials for our Ways and Means table. There will also be various items to purchase and raffles to buy. So open your wallets for this wonderful auxiliary.

On Friday, June 13, there will be an Anniversary Breakfast. This, too, is a reservation only event. Deadline is May 25th and should be made thru Dianne Werner.

Friday evening is Mardi Gras and Saturday is the dress parade. Complete details should be available via the HVVFA website.

Convention Shirts: In conjunction with the upcoming 50th Anniversary, special anniversary shirts can be ordered. Deadline for ordering your shirt is May 1st. Shirts will be passed out at convention. They are PREPAID ONLY and NO SHIRTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT CONVENTION. Sample shirts will be at the April meeting to try on for sizing. Order forms will also be available then if you forget yours. For more information on the shirts, please contact Diana Balling at 845-389-7115 or email at dlb@megacity.org.

Want to support LAHVFA? Please consider taking an ad, booster or a In Memory of. Deadline for ads is April 30, 2025. Ads cost: Full page \$80.00 / Half Page \$45.00 / 1/4 page \$35.00 / 1/8 page \$30.00. Boosters are only \$1.00 per name and In Memory of are only \$5.00. Please contact Sue Mehan at lahvvfajournal@gmail.com or call her at 518-281-3459 to get your ad in.

July Daily Drawing - Take tickets to your auxiliary meetings and sell them. You'd be surprised at how fast they go. Tickets will be available at the April meeting as well as at convention in Lake George. Contact Karen McDonald at 518-339-9605 or email at kmcdonald@earthlink.net with any questions

Around the Valley:

Columbia County:

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Chatham Fire Dept conducted their first meeting of the new year. Newly elected officers are: President Patricia Lucas; Vice President Katrine Rideout; 2nd Vice President Kathy Pratt; Secretary Kathy Akin; Financial Secretary Mary Sheline and Treasurer Lori McDermott. Trustees elected are Margaret Tuthill, Barbara Fischer and Melinda Williams. Their banquet will be held on April 5th where Janet Sawyer will be honored for 25 years of service. Congratulations to all the officers! Janet, thank you for your service to your community.

Orange County:

Blood Drive at Pine Bush Firehouse: In honor of Judy Parsells who is battling Anorectal Mucosal Melanoma, there will be a Blood Drive at the Pine Bush Firehouse located at 2405 Route 52 – Pine Bush on Thursday, June 5th from 1:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Pine Bush FD Ladies Aux will be having their annual Easter Flower Sale on Friday (April 18) and Saturday (April 19).

9 am – 3 pm 2405 Route 52 – Pine Bush.

Pine Bush FD Ladies Aux will be having an Indoor Yard Sale on Friday (May 16) Saturday (May 17) from 9 am – 3 pm.

Winona Lake Eng Co.#2 Ladies Aux held their elections. Newly elected officers for 2025 are: President Tammy Nosek, Vice President Mariana Savino, Secretary Marlana Savino and Treasurer Jackie Caesar.

Putnam County:

Putnam Lake Ladies Aux Penny Social on April 27. Doors open at noon and drawing begins at 1 pm. Admission is \$2.00. Location: Putnam Lake Fire House – 72 Fairfield Dr – Patterson. For more info contact Laura Russo

Ladies Aux of PCVFA Corey's Pickles Fundraiser. Cost is \$12 per container and will run thru April 2

Carmel FD Auxiliary breakfast buffet on Sunday, May 18 at the Carmel Fire House – 94 Glen Ida Ave-Carmel. Time is 9 am to 11 am. Cost is \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors (55 and up); \$6 for children age 4-12; free for children 3 and under

Ulster County:

The Aux of Saxton Fire Co Spring Penny Social on May 17th.

Doors open at 6 pm with drawing beginning at 7 pm. Location is 3953 Route 32 – Saugerties.

LA of Ulster County VFA Scratch Off Lottery Fundraiser. Tickets cost only \$10 only 200 tickets will be sold. Winner will receive \$500 worth of \$10 Scratch Off Tickets

Warren County:

Lake George FD Aux member, Stephanie Irish, surprised each of the Residents of the FASNY Firefighters Home with a Valentine Basket There were 80 baskets. Each basket contained lotion, lip balm, Hershey Kisses and a Valentine Card.

Rockland County Report

Submitted by: Chuck Larkin, RCVF

The Rockland County Fire Explorer Post 44 kicked off the new year at the Rockland County Fire Training Center. Their first session was focused on S.C.B.A and Gear Basics. Other training throughout the year will include Hazmat, C.P.R & First Aid, Radio Communications, Forcible Entry and much more. This is a great opportunity for Rockland County Youth to dive into the essentials of firefighting and gain hands-on experience. For more details or questions, visit their website at rcexplorerpost44.org.

The Nanuet Chamber of Commerce awarded the Nanuet Fire Engine Company the Partnership in Progress award in January to honor the hard work and dedication of their members. Last year the Nanuet Fire Department responded to 689 emergency calls, all handled by volunteer firefighters. Nanuet will also be hosting this year's RCVFA Convention and Parade in September.

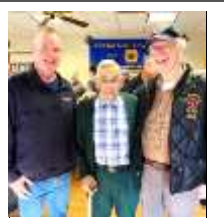
Outgoing New City Fire Engine Co. #1 President Matt "Nanook" DeGennaro had the Honor of marching for another President on January 20th. Matt was invited to march with the Florida Firefighters Pipes and Drums for the Inauguration Parade at Capitol Arena in Washington DC.

Nanook is a Pipe Sergeant with the Rockland County Firefighters Pipes & Drums and also President of the Rockland County Firefighters Emerald Society.



On January 21st, Congressman Mike Lawler addressed the United States House of Representatives to honor Ex Chief and Past Rockland County Deputy Fire Coordinator Al Magnatta from the Congers FD to help celebrate his upcoming 100th birthday on January 27th. Chief Magnatta served our country in WWII as a B-17 Gunner flying 25 missions over Germany. In 1946 he returned home and joined the Alert Hook, Ladder and Engine Co. #1 in Congers. He quickly rose through the ranks and served as Chief from 1960 to 1962.

After his term as Chief he became a RC Deputy Fire Coordinator and served for 6 decades. Congers FD held a party for Al for his actual birthday on the 27th. Congratulations Chief on this remarkable milestone.



The RC Fire Safety Officers and the RC Fire Police jointly hosted an Active Shooter Seminar at the RCFTC on January 27th, about 180 firefighters and EMS from Rockland and surrounding areas attended. Tom Koziak, coordinator of strategic safety and security from the RC Police Academy, gave an informative presentation on how these active shooter incidents are responded to and mitigated. Future training on a more in depth look at active shooter incidents and firefighter response is in the works.

Crews from the Stony Point FD, Thiells FD, Hilcrest FD, West Haverstraw FD, Stony Point EMS and Haverstraw EMS stood by and operated at the 26th Annual Stony Point Seals Super Plunge on the morning of February 9th. This event has run

Super Bowl Sunday since 1999 as a fundraiser for a child or children in the North Rockland area with high medical bills. Fire and EMS provided safety and support for the 100 or so individuals who braved the snow and ice this year and made the plunge. It is a Great cause and if anyone would like to donate go to www.stonypointseals.com.

On March 1st, Reps for Responders & American Made Performance Gym held the first ever Volunteer Firefighters Cup to support our Rockland County Volunteer Firefighter community. The cup consisted of 4 different events to showcase the physical challenges firefighters go through in the field and to help our local volunteers prepare for when duty calls. This was a head to head battle to see who had the fittest firehouse in Rockland County. 6 RC FD's competed in the challenge Chelsea H&L Co. #2 of Nyack, Hillcrest FD, Rescue H&L Co. #1 of Haverstraw, Congers FD, Blauvelt FD and New City FD. At the end of the day the firefighters from Congers FD took home the title, and won 6 months free at AMP Gym in Stony Point. Congratulations!

On Saturday, March 8th the Rockland County Fire Chiefs Assn. held their Annual Old Timers Night and awards presentations, hosted by Wayne Hose Co. #1 at the Haverstraw Elks Club. Members of the Association received their Life Memberships Awards were presented to following well deserving individuals. Orangeburg Fire Chief Ken Gordon was honored as Rockland County Fire Chief of the Year. RC Instructor of the Year was presented to Dennis Borelli from the Valley Cottage FD. 3 Charles M. "Smokey" Fales Awards for Lifetime Achievement were presented to Paul Hylas & Joe Natale of Relief Hose Co.#3, Haverstraw FD and Warren Gould of Highland Hose Co. #5, Nyack FD. The William Harris Awards for Outstanding Service by a Community Member was presented to Sheriff Lou Falco and the Jerome Trachtenberg Service Award went to our very own HVVFA Director James Hartwick of Mazeppa Engine Co. #2, Nyack FD. Congratulations to all!

Please come out and support the SW Johnson SFE Co No 1 at their Gift Card Bingo on Saturday March 22nd. Doors will open at 6:00pm and games start at 7:00pm. Contact Kristen Brehmer @ 845-893-3773 to reserve your seat There will be no seats being sold at the front door. \$45 pp, food and beverages will be sold as well as raffles and a 50/50.

Come join the Nanuet FD Ladies Auxiliary at their Pocketbook Bingo Fundraiser on Friday, March 28th. You must reserve your spot I advance by calling or texting Brina @ 845-521-9757. Doors open at 5:30pm and games start at 7:00pm, \$50 pp or \$45 pp for groups of 10. Feel free to bring your own beverages and snacks. Check Nanuet Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary on Facebook for more details.

The Suffern Hook & Ladder Co. #1 and Mahwah Ladder Co.# 2 present Artimus Pyle, Rock & Roll Hall of Famer and Lynyrd Skynyrd drummer, and his band with their "Gimme 3 Steps Tour" at the Mason Jar in Mahwah, NJ. April 13th from 1 to 4pm, \$25 per person suggested fundraiser donation to benefit these 2 interstate fire companies.

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

9/23

The **Royal Order of the Blue Vests** held its Spring meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2025, at **Brewster Fire Department** in Putnam County. There were many members in attendance, as expected, as the Brewster FD always provides an amazing St. Patrick's Day luncheon, complete with appetizers, desserts and, of course, Irish Soda Bread!

After a brief Board meeting, **Pres. Jack Delaney** began the meeting. All board members were in attendance, as well as (8) Past Presidents! They were: **Harry Barrett, Mike Cesare, 2x Pres. Chan Rivera, Fred Pettingell, Jennifer Mackenzie, Wilson McKay, Ed Butler**, and **myself**, as well as Honorary Past President, **George Hill**. We were also very happy to welcome back a familiar face, Honorary Member, **Ed Barnett**, who drove our fellow Blue Vests down from the Firefighters' Home.

The first readings of two By-Law proposals were read by the author, as By-Law Chairperson – one which officially incorporates our September Installation event into our June Blue Vests' Day at the Home. The other to clarify the locations of our meetings, which needed to include the FASNY Firefighters' Home. Should the second reading of these proposals pass at the May meeting, they will go into effect after this year's HVVFA Convention.

Nominations were held at this meeting. **Pres. Delaney** declined running for a second term due to his commitment to HVVFA, as he will be taking over the Financial Secretary's position from **Joe Mellan** (*also a Blue Vests member btw!*). **Recording Secretary Marie Delawder** also decided to step down from her current position. Nominations were made and seconded and shown below are the unopposed Officers for the 2025-26 term. The change in Officers will take effect after the installation on Blue Vests Day, June 21st.

President – Bruce Stockman (Columbia), **1st Vice-President – Ed Butler** (Putnam), **2nd Vice-President – Janine Wheeler** (Dutchess) **Recording Secretary – LuAnn Edele** (Putnam), **Financial Secretary/Treasurer – George Hill** (Dutchess), **Sgt-at-Arms – Frank Roberts Sr.** (Greene), **Chaplains – Victoria Dichian** (Rennsalaer) and **Edgar "Jay" Brennan** (Westchester)

The **May Meeting/Family Picnic** will take place on **Saturday, May 24** (Memorial Day weekend) and the flyer will be sent out shortly. Cost will be \$25. RSVPs will be needed and raffle prizes too! 😊 The annual **Convention Steak Roast** will again be a joint venture with the Red Veststo take place on Thursday, June 12th, as previously announced. More details and the subsequent flyer will be forthcoming.

Don't forget: our next fundraising month is **MAY** and tickets are available if you're interested! Even taking one ticket (@\$5) gives you **93 chances to win** and gives the Blue Vests a few extra dollars to use for the benefit of our favorite members – those who live at the FASNY Firefighters' Home! *Proceeds are put into a special account for that purpose!* Please consider helping us with this fundraiser ... I will have extras with me at the HVVFA Quarterly Meeting on April 27th in Lake George.

Enjoy this beautifully fresh season and Happy Easter and a Blessed Passover to you all!

SAVE THE DATE



1ST ANNUAL FIRE TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

FORT WILLIAM HENRY HOTEL
CONFERENCE CENTER • LAKE GEORGE, N.Y.

MAY 16-18, 2025

Start your weekend with a Golf Scramble at Cronin's Golf Course, then hear from top national leaders as they prepare you to tackle the challenges of today's volunteer fire service.

CHECK OUT SOME OF THE SPEAKERS WE ARE WORKING WITH

Chief Tom Richardson **Chief Tom Basher**
Deputy Chief **Tim Cowan** Chief Douglas Cline
Chief Tom Miller **Chief Stefano Napolitano**



This page is proudly sponsored by:
The Royal Order of the Red Vests, Inc.

12/23

Westchester County Report
Submitted by: Mickey Fritsche, WCVF

Happy Spring from Westchester County VFA!
 Our next membership meeting is March 23rd, 1:30pm at Riverside Hose in Tarrytown.
 We are hosting a seminar on May 3rd, from 10-2 at the Department of Emergency Services in Valhalla: FASNY's Recruitment and Retention Committee is presenting BRINGING OUR FUTURE TO THE TABLE RECRUITMENT & RETENTION.
 Presenter: Deputy Chief Dave Glenn. Chair of the R&R committee of FASNY.
 We will go over some of the things that your organization does. How you can change it to better serve you and your department. We can work together on how to streamline the application process.
 The 119th WCVFA 2025 Convention will be hosted by the Tarrytown Fire Department. The parade is scheduled for September 20th. We'll have more information about the meeting as it gets closer.

Ulster County Report
Submitted by: Justus Rice, UCFV

As I sit and work on my newsletter the days are getting longer, and the sun is shining. Spring is right around the corner. A few departments have had their installation dinner and I would like to congratulate all the newly elected officers. I will be attending West Hurley Installation Dinner on March 21.
 I do know that Ellenville Fire Department has been working on the upcoming convention which will be held in July.

Upcoming events:

March 16 Port Ewen Breakfast
 April 6 Esopus Fire Dept Pancake Breakfast
 April 13 West Hurley Fire Dept Pancake Breakfast
 1st Sunday of each month Wallkill Breakfast
 April 6 Port Ewen Penny Social
 May 3 Bloomington Penny Social
 Sub Night second Friday of each month Kripplebush Fire Dept
 The next few county meeting are
 March 18 Esopus, April 15 Cragmoor, May 20 Napanoch
 We have been having guest speaker at the meeting, and I invite members and officers from the Valley to come.
 On a sad note, I did attend the funeral for Deputy Coordinator Wayne Freer, Big Indian Ladies Aux Life member Jane Rossitz, Richard Hermace Tillson Fire department
 I look forward to seeing everyone at the quarterly meeting in April in Lake George.

Rockland County Report
Continued

The Hillcrest FD Ladies Aux is having an Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 5th starting @ 10 am at the Hillcrest Firehouse, 374 N Main St, Spring Valley. Adults \$15, Children \$10 and any additional family member over 4 are \$10. Check Hillcrest Fire Co. Ladies Aux on Facebook for more details.

On April 27th the David B. Roche Ladies Aux of the Thiells FD will be having a Paint & Snack Party. Create your own sign from over 250 choices and come have a fun afternoon with your friends and support the Ladies. 1 to 4 pm at their firehouse on Rte. 202 in Thiells, \$50 pp.

Also on April 27th, SW Johnson SFE Co No 1 Ladies Aux will be hosting "An Afternoon of Spirit Messages with Lisa Morison". \$65 pp or reserve a table of 10/\$600, advance sales only, includes light brunch, soda, water, coffee and dessert. Feel free to BYOB.

Hillcrest Fire Co #1 will be having a Food Truck & Music Fest on Sunday, May 2nd at Eugene Levy Park in Pomona. 15+ Gourmet Food Trucks, Live Music, beer, margarita & sangria garden, vendors and plenty of kids activities including pony rides, a petting zoo and face painting as well as mini golf & knockerball for the whole family. Bring your friends, family, appetites, chairs & blankets. 11am to 7pm, admission: \$5 at the gate and kids under 5 free. Visit Hillcrest Fire Co #1 Food Truck & Music Fest on Facebook for more info.

On May 10th the Empire Hose Co #1 is hosting the 1st Piermont Fire 5K to help recruit new members and raise money for their participating Fire & EMS Charity Partners. The event was created to kick off the 175th Anniversary of the Piermont FD in 2026. Over the years their mutual aid partners in the Fire & EMS services have supported Department 13 and with this event, they want to help support them. Fundraising often takes a back seat to other priorities and recruiting new members continues to be a challenge. Further details are on the Piermont FD Facebook page or runsignup.com/Race/NY/Piermont/PiermontFire5K.

The 1st Annual Rockland LODD Monument Golf Outing will be held on Monday, June 23rd at the Phillip J. Rotella Golf Course in Pomona. They are going to begin the fundraising part of the project. This fundraiser is an exciting way to help support the cause and also have a great day of camaraderie together with your brothers and sisters in the Fire Service. Further details are available on the Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters' Association Facebook page or contact Evan Humphrey @ (845) 641-2038.

10th Annual H.V.F.A. Golf Outing

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025
 Place: Cronin's Golf Resort
 Time: 11:00 a.m. Registration
 12:00pm Shotgun Start
 Format: Best Ball
 Cost: \$140.00 Per Player
 Includes: Golf, Golf Cart, Prizes, BBQ Lunch & Buffet Dinner

Foursome: Contact Person: _____ Cell # _____

Email: _____

Player Name 1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

Company/Department & County: _____

Hole Sponsor: \$100.00 Per Sign – Wording on Sign

Department/Company _____

Association Name _____

Business Name _____

Individual Name _____

Please fill out the attached flyer and return to:

Don Farrell
16 Butler Place
Ossining, New York 10562

Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Golf Outing

The Outing will be held in conjunction with our annual convention and will be held on Wednesday June 11, 2025, at Cronin's Golf Resort, located on Golf Course Road, in Warrensburg, New York.

All proceeds raised from the outing will be put towards the cost of our annual HVVFA convention. We are asking for your help in supporting our golf outing by playing in the outing or having your Department/Company or Association purchase a Hole Sponsorship.

Please fill out the attached flyer and return to:

Don Farrell
16 Butler Place
Ossining, New York 10562

Please register by June 1, 2025. Cost \$140.00 per Player. Includes Golf, Golf Cart, Prizes, BBQ Lunch, Buffet Dinner, and refreshments.

Hole Sponsor will be \$100.00 Per Sign.

Please make checks payable to the HVVFA.

With your support our 10th Annual Golf Outing will be a success.

Thank you,

Robert Schrader, President

If you have any questions, please contact a committee member listed below.

Committee Members

Don Farrell 914-406-6510 (old2334@aol.com)

Bob Outhouse 914-760-2331 (k9amy@aol.com)

Bob Schrader 518-755-0630 (schraderathens@aol.com)

Bob Fritchie 914-519-8649 (koachice@aol.com)

Dutchess County Report

Submitted by: Kyle Pottenburgh, DCVP

The most important information to pass along about Dutchess County is the rebirth of Dutchess County Weekend. The history of Dutchess County Weekend begins back in 1990 at a Fire Chiefs Council meeting in the Amenia Firehouse in Amenia, NY. During the meeting a discussion was centering around the limited number of New York State fire instructors, which Dutchess County had at the time only four. The number of instructors along with the limited number of hours provided to the county through the state of New York, really reduced the amount of state educational opportunities for the firefighters of Dutchess County. Chief Raymond Davis, who was Chief of the High Park Fire Department at the time, and I chatted about this concern for a while, until we came up with an idea. It was to create an educational weekend at the New York State Fire Academy at Montour Falls, NY which we could send firefighters to, so that they could receive a higher level of training. A committee of five or six people, were brought together to discuss this idea which later created Dutchess County Weekend. The committee had lots of things to consider, what level and type of training should be presented to different levels of students attending, transportation to and from the Academy, what time of the year would be the best to hold the weekend, and what we could do to entice attendance. With all these things considered, a plan was put together and proposed to the Fire Chiefs Council. The Chiefs Council members approved our plan for at least one year.

So, in early March of 1991. After a year of planning. A school bus loaded with 29 Dutchess County firefighters were off to the NYS Fire Academy at Montour Falls. After that point, the annual trek to Montour grew and grew. Along with the number of attendees, so did the relationships between departments grow. It was always rewarding to see a group of firefighters from different parts of Dutchess County sitting around a table in the cafeteria at the academy, telling stories, talking about fires and events, relating to all their activities. Most of these folks would never work together on a fire scene but they all became brothers and sisters during Dutchess County Weekend.

As years progressed, the event needed to change to keep the attendance up and to adapt to the times and technology. These were the different things that were done to encourage folks. We had a Friday night pizza party. Then we went out to a local restaurant for a Prime rib all you can eat buffet on Saturday nights. T-shirts changed not only in color but by adding designs on them. We even incorporated mistakes into the drawings for a contest. For the firefighter who identified the mistake accurately, his or her department would receive one free attendee for the following year.

Dutchess Weekend ran very smoothly for all the years it was run. The students knew the benefits of being there and they also knew the results of misbehaving.

Throughout all the years we estimate there were 3,300 students attending the weekends with over 39,000 training hours brought back to Dutchess County.

Well, Dutchess County weekend ran for 28 years before it hit a brick wall, which was COVID. I never expected Dutchess County weekend to return, but last September, Chief John Jackson of the East Fishkill Fire District suggested reviving it. He not only suggested it, he took steps forward by recommending it be held in Dutchess County. To guarantee that it would happen again the chief donated the use of the East Fishkill Fire Training Center as the location for the weekend. A committee was formed with many of the old members and some new faces to see if it could be done.

So, it has been announced that DCW29 will be held on March 28th, 29th and 30th, 2025. There are 4 classes scheduled on the program. There are 87 students from 15 Dutchess County Departments and 5 out of county departments attending. With any luck, DCW 29 will be a success. Hopefully, the weekend's long history of friendship, knowledge, teamwork and education will continue for many, many years to come.

COMING EVENTS:

DCVFA Quarterly Meeting: Tuesday, April 15 @ 6:30 New Hamburg Station #1, Channingville Rd. Poughkeepsie NY

DCVFA Quarterly and Convention Meeting: July 15, 2025, at Pawling Station #1, 25 South St. Pawling.

Dutchess County Weekend: Fri – Sun, March 28, 29, & 30. Classes will be held at the East Fishkill Headquarters Bldg. and the New Hackensack Fire Station.

DCVFA Convention Parade: Pawling Friday, August 15th, 2025

Millbrook Fireman's Parade: Saturday July 12, 2025, starting in the village of Millbrook and ending at the Fire station.

Pawling Fire Cos Annual Carnival: August 13 – 16, 2025 at the Lakeside Park in the Village of Pawling.

J. H. Ketcham Hose Co Monthly Pancake Breakfast: The 2nd Sunday of each month, Jan – April & Sept – Dec. 8:00am – 11:00am at J. H. Ketcham Hose Co. Station #1 Dover Plains, NY.

Hughsonville Fire Co Monthly Pancake Breakfast: The 2nd Sunday of each month, Jan – May & Sept – Dec. 8:00am – 11:00am

Milian Rescue Squad Monthly Pancake Breakfast: The 3rd Sunday of each month, Jan – May & Sept – Dec. 8:00am – 11:00am at the Milan Town Hall. 20 Willcox Circle Red Hook, NY.

Amenia Fire Co Monthly Pancake Breakfast: The 3rd Sunday of each month, Jan – March & Sept – Dec. 7:00am – 11:00am at the Amenia Fire Station 36 Mechanic St. Amenia, NY.

Millerton Fire Co Monthly Pancake Breakfast: The 4th Sunday of each month from 7:00am – 11:00am Jan – April & Sept – Dec, at Millerton Fire Station #24 Century Blvd., Millerton, NY.,

Rombout Fire Co Monthly Pancake Breakfast: The 4th Sunday of each month from 8:00am – 11:00am at Rombout Station #1 901 Main St. Fishkill, NY.

New Hackensack Fire Co Annual Fish Fry: Friday Nights starting on March 7th and running until April 18th, 4:30 pm – 7:00pm at the New Hackensack Fire station 217 Myers Corners Rd. Pick Up Only

New Hamburg Fire Co Annual Fish Fry: Friday Nights starting on March 7th until April 18th, 4:30 pm – 7:00pm at the New Hamburg Station #1, Channingville Rd, Poughkeepsie (PICKUP or EAT IN).

Legislative News

Submitted by: Jim Hartwick, Legislative Chairman

The Legislative Committee has been very active in February and March. With the NY State legislature in session we have been busy with FASNY and Albany Strategic Associates (ASA) the lobby firm that works with us on issues, strategies and sponsors for our priority legislation.

For the FASNY trip to Washington, DC, plenty of prep work was required to arrange visits with our Congressional Members in the House of Representatives and our two U.S. Senators. We met with 19 out of 27 NY elected officials. Info packages of 11 legislative topics were provided by the National Volunteer Fire Council.

Every visit included updates on our concerns with OSHA's Proposed Emergency Response Standard. The consensus is the standards are not economically feasible and not scalable comparing small volunteer fire companies/departments with metropolitan fire departments. The good news is that President Trump's administration is reviewing the proposed OSHA Standard.

A great success was Congresswoman Claudia Tenny agreeing to sponsor our long sought exemption of LOSAP earnings from the Federal Income Tax. Her office has drafted the legislation and secured cosponsors for the bill. The title of the bill is *"No Tax on Length of Service Award Programs Act" or the "No Tax on LOSAP Act."* To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount excluded from gross personal income for qualified payments to individuals providing volunteer firefighting or emergency medical services and to clarify that payments under length of service programs are qualified payments.

Mike Karashay kept track of the steps we walked through the Halls of Congress which he converted to 14.5 miles. Ouch!

Lobbying Days in Albany

In conjunction with FASNY and ASA we spent March 4th meeting with Assembly Members and Senators to push our priority legislation. We met with the sponsors of our bills and also the chairperson of the committee the bills are assigned to. Depending on the bill they are in the committees on Local Government, Mental Health, Budget & Finance or Ways & Means. A good overview on the State Budget and the impact of the Federal Government on funding or lack thereof was helpful. In attendance from our HV Legislative committee were Jack Delaney, Vice Chairman Mike Karashay and myself as Chairman.

Mental Health Day Conference & Lobbying

On March 12th we were asked to attend the Mental Health Conference with FASNY President Gene Perry. I represented the legislative side and Angela Outhouse and Jill Holland of HVVFA who are on the Mental Health committee attended.

The conference "Mental Health Matters" was arranged by the Mental Health Association in New York and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The numerous speakers provided an excellent overview of the mental health crisis that is impacting children, adults, senior citizens and 1st Responders. The range of problems includes anxiety, depression, psychological depression, suicide risk and attempted suicide. The sponsoring associations have endorsed its full support for our "First Responder Peer Support" legislation. We met with the sponsor of this legislation, Senator Harckham and then Assemblyman Chris Burdick to seek his sponsorship for the bill in the Assembly. Both legislators are now working together on the wording to make sure it is exactly the same. Peer to Peer support is highly effective. It provides 1st Responders with the resources and emotional support needed to cope with the stresses of their profession. A critical aspect is a *confidential provision ensuring that 1st responders feel comfortable seeking support without concerns for their privacy or professional repercussions.*

This was a great effort and a gratifying result. Now the challenge is to get both bills passed. The governor's position on Mental Health inclines us to believe that she would sign the bill.

Coxsackie Hose Co. #3 - 2025 Officers

President: Ken Bauer
 Vice President: Eric "Hogie" Hotaling
 Secretary: Sam Pigeon
 Financial Secretary: Tracy O'Bryan
 Treasurer: Ken Bauer
 Board of Directors
 Zach Saccoccie
 Sal Santonstasio
 Dawn Smith
 Barry Rausch Jr.
 Brain McGrarry

Coxsackie Fire Department -2025 Officers

Chief-Stephen Salluce Jr.
 1st Asst. Chief-Dominic Yannazzone
 2nd Asst. Chief-Barry Rausch Jr.

**If any Company or Department is interested in 100% Membership in the HVVFA
Please contact the Financial Secretary
Joseph Mellan, HVVFA Fin.Sec.
1635 Forestburg Rd, Glen Spey, NY 12737
Home (845) 856-2631 Cell (845) 741-5505
Email BC1.mellan@gmail.com**

**From the Desk of the Financial Secretary
100% MEMBERSHIP**

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

**HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER
EDITOR Fran Galu
c/o 1635 Forestburg Rd
Glen Spey, NY 12737**

TO: