



THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER

Volume No. 2024 Issue 06

June 2025

From the desk of the President

I hope you have been enjoying a great start of 2025 with good health. We are having above normal rain. Hopefully this wet season has brought you a lower number of wildfires this spring.

Over the last two months John J. Mulligan and Bill Eck Memorial Haz Mat training was held at Hughsonville Fire Department. In addition, the Ken Merriman Fire Police Seminar was held at Cornell Hook & Ladder Co., New Baltimore. Both were well attended and had outstanding speakers. As I write this, I'm attending the FASNY 1st Annual Fire Training Symposium in Lake George with some great speakers.

We had our quarterly meeting in Lake George on April 27. At that meeting nominations for 2025-2026 took place. This year nominations were only for Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and two Directors. The President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President were not nominated as we are now two-year terms, which will be up for election next year. Those nominated for re-electrician were Barbara Fisher for Secretary, George Hill for Treasurer, and Jerri Mehan for his second term as Director. Nominated for the first time is Jack Delaney for Financial Secretary to replace Joe Mellan, as he is stepping down after many years. Thank you, Joe, for all those years of dedication to the Association. Also nominated was LuAnn Edlele for Director from Putnam County to replace Ed Butler who has finish his second and maximum allowed terms as Director. The Association thanks Ed for his dedication and hard work of eight years on the Board.

The 2025 Convention will be held in the Village of Lake George hosted by the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association with assistance from the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce from June 12 – June 14. Co-chairs Christopher Kilmartin and Thomas McKinney have been hard at work planning the convention. The Annual Golf Outing precedes the opening of the Convention at Cronin's Golf Resort in Warrensburg on Wednesday June 11. Both sessions of the Convention will be held at Georgian Lakeside Resort with the first session starting on Thursday June 12 at 9:00 am. The second session starts Friday June 13th at 9:00 am. Thursday afternoon at 5:30 loading for 3-hour cruise will take place, reservations must be made in advance. Mardi Gras parade on Friday night (June 13) starts at 7:00 pm with line up at 5:00 pm on beach road. Following the parade is a block party at Shepard's Park. The theme for the Mardi Gras parade is "Christmas in June."

If you are a member or not a member of FASNY you can go to their web site and sign up for notices of legislation concerns that affect the Volunteer fire service and make yourself heard when FASNY alerts you to act. The web address is <https://fasny.com/legislation/advocacy-center/>.

All the events coming up can be viewed along with any updates on our web site. <https://hvvfa.com> . If you are a member, you can obtain more information along with a better look at our calendar under the member Area on the left side of the site. Others may sign up after becoming members of our organization or by signing up on the web site.

If you are interested on being on a HVVFA committee or would like to be removed from a committee or chair, please send me a email at <https://schraderathens@aol.com>.

On a personal note, I want to thank Fran Galu for her hard work and dedication in being the editor for ten years of this newsletter, for her hard work and dedication. It is a big job and responsibility to get this newsletter done every two months. She will be stepping down at the end of this month. She will be missed. Charles Larkin has stepped up to take her place. I ask that you provide him with your company/department news and your patience as he fills this position.

I look forward to seeing you at Lake George.

Robert A. Schrader
President

Note from the Editor

I want to say thank you for having me serve as the Editor of this great newsletter for the past 10 years. I've decided that it's time for my retirement as Jerry and I moved to Tennessee 6 years ago. While we live South, we are still members of the HVVFA, so I will be reading the future issues of the newsletter.

Thank you to all the past/present officers who have trusted me with this position. Thank you to the County VPs and especially LuAnne Edele who helped me make sure the newsletter was as full as it could be with your articles.

Cheers to all, hopefully one day I'll make it back to New York and see everyone at a Convention.

Greene County Report

Submitted by: Karen Schrader, GCVF

Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association
Officers 2024-2025

President - Ryan Schrader

1st VP – Jason Haines

2nd VP – Jeffrey Coyne

Secretary - Liza Down

Treasurer – Karen Schrader

Fin. Secretary – George Stacey

137th GCVFA Convention hosted by Greenville VFC
September 2-6, 2025

Events around Greene County

May

19 – Chicken BBQ Palenville FD, 5-6:30

June

1 – Greene County Day at the FASNY Firefighters Home

11-14 HVVFA Convention, Golf on the 11th See everyone in Lake George

21 – Find Your Flame; Freehold VFC is holding an event for singles 6-8pm. \$25 reservations
<https://freeholdfireny.com/event/find-your-flame>

23 – Food Truck Monday; Freehold VFC, 5-8pm
July

24-27 – Greene County Youth Fair, Angelo Canna Town Park in Cairo. GCVFA has a fire prevention tent with demonstrations along with Greene County companies' displaying their apparatus.

Rensselaer County Report

Submitted by: Brenda Gausby, RCVF

Departments across the county have switched their spring and summer season. Offerings like pizza nights, BBQ, car shows, and themed breakfasts are numerous. Just a few are highlighted:

Touch-the-Trucks have grown in popularity and on May 3rd in Sand Lake's Butler Park approximately 100 attendees explored equipment and enjoyed a large fire service themed bounce house. Rensselaer County mobile communications trailer, six fire companies and ambulance squads gathered in the centralized location to make it a big success.

Schodack Landing Fire Company hosts "Friday Nights in the Park (Firehouse Fridays) which began May 2nd and continue through September 5th featuring live music and amazing food cooked by volunteer firefighters set in the scenic Schodack Island State Park.

Hoags Corners inaugural annual Jeep Show event is June 7th and enthusiasts from within the county and beyond will gather for food, fun and possibly get "ducked".

East Greenbush Fire and law enforcement participated in a mock DWI drill prior to prom night, and a few high schools offered awareness raising programs.

Multiple Memorial Day parades across the county are the unofficial start to summer fun.

Rensselaer County Fire Chiefs Association (RCFCA) met on May 19th at the Center Brunswick FD Station 7 and offered an educational presentation by the NYS Police Troop G dive team. The content highlighted available resources to support departments during water incidents.



Putnam County Report

Submitted by: LuAnn Edele, PCVP

By the time you're reading this, summer is just weeks away and who isn't happy about that?!? I know I am - it's my favorite season! Here's my county's "Happy Recap" (*as a Mets fan I always knew if they won if Ralph Kiner said "Happy Recap" or just plain "Recap" pre-commercial break!*)

Brewster FD is continuing to move forward with its August 11th golf outing, to be held at the Sedgewood Club in Carmel. The committee is working hard on this fundraiser and are expecting it to be a success. Also, in the works for Brewster is, of course, its annual parade, which will be held on Saturday, September 13th. And, looking in the rearview mirror, the Brewster-Southeast Joint FD Commissioners held its second annual inspection on May 31st. (*But since I'm writing this two weeks beforehand, I can't report too well on that, lol!*)

Carmel FD's Bowling fundraiser was a huge success, as always, with the tournament spanning both the morning and afternoon sessions. As mentioned previously, they are celebrating their **110th anniversary** this year with a parade scheduled for Saturday, July 19th and they've just announced their Don Pearlman/Jimmy Roberts' golf outing, to be held Friday, September 5th at the Putnam County Golf Course. Stay tuned for details!

Though they haven't announced it that I'm aware of yet, we anticipate that **Mahopac VFD** will have its annual parade and carnival in July and the concerts held at Tilly Foster Farm in Southeast will begin for the summer, which means our **County Fire Police Response Team** will be directing traffic while listening to some awesome music! 😊

Putnam County Day at the Home was held on Sunday, May 4th, and we had the largest number of members joining us to date! Unfortunately, several units of the Home were closed due to COVID so not many residents were able to join us for our traditional Bingo. However, all residents and staff

that day still got to enjoy the special lunch we provided them and, as tradition also holds, the PCVFA members got to enjoy their special ice cream stop on the bus ride home! (*This year the stop was at Del's in Rhinebeck ... if you've never been, I highly recommend them if you're in that area!*)

The **County Ladies'** recent fundraiser with Corey's Pickles was once again a success, with a profit exceeding last year's first introduction. As already reported, we are planning for our 50th anniversary celebration so also planning a *Chair Yoga* fundraiser in late July, along with our bi-annual *Bakeless Cake Sale*. Plus, in honor of our 50th, we presented our adoptee, Joann Hatz, with a custom zippered sweatshirt, with our logo, anniversary years and name, when we got to see her on our Home Day. She was so excited and appreciative!

As I wrap up this issue's article, I want to say how much it has been an honor for me to represent Putnam as its County Vice-President for the last (8) years, as well as chairing the CVP Committee for the past four. Since I am running for Director at this year's convention, the PCVFA has elected a new County VP to take my place, though I have assured the CVP team that I will always be around if they need me.

Have a safe, fun-filled summer and I'll see you at Convention!

Convention Dates

6/11 BOD Quarterly Meeting 9am The Georgian
 6/11 Golf Outing 11am Cronins Golf, Warrensburg
 6/12 Convention Session 9am The Georgian
 6/12 Red/Blue Vest Outing 3:30 pm American Legion
 6/12 Boat Cruise 5:30pm 2 Kurosaka Lane Lake George
 6/13 Convention Session 9am The Georgian
 6/13 Mardi Gras Parade 5pm line up Beach Road
 6/13 Block Party 6pm Shepards Park
 6/14 Dress Parade 11am Line up see line up map

Over 40 trophies to be awarded

HVVFA Ladies Auxiliary

Submitted by: Diana Balling

As I sit down to write this article, I realized that convention is less than a month away. How is that even possible! Time seems to be flying by each and every one of us in at a time warp speed. Hope everyone is ready to enjoy the 2025 convention in Lake George!

Our 50th Anniversary!

Convention Recap:

Convention begins for LA-HVVFA on Wednesday at the Holiday Inn – Route 9 in Lake George.

*Audit is at 1 pm with the Executive Board meeting at 3 pm. Registration will be from 6 pm to 8 pm. Members who haven't paid their dues and want to at convention--- this is the only time to do so.

Thursday will find everyone at the Holiday Inn.

*Registration is from 8 am – 9 am. This is a great time to visit the Ways and Means to get last minute gifts, buy your raffle tickets, etc. The 50th Annual Convention will open at 10 am. (or as soon as the Officers return from the Association Meeting).

*Lunch will be served at 12 pm. You must have purchased your luncheon ticket prior to convention.

*Installation of Officers will take place at 12:45 pm

*Convention meeting reconvenes at 1 pm.

*HVVFA has planned a Boat Cruise on Lake George from 6 pm to 9 pm. This is in honor of LA-HVVFA 50th Anniversary. Reservations for this were to be made thru HVVFA prior to convention.

Friday morning a special 50th Anniversary Breakfast will be held at the Holiday Inn. Again, reservations were to be made ahead of time. Mardi Gras parade and Dress Parade are next on the agenda.

Details can be found on HVVFA website for all HVVFA sponsored events.

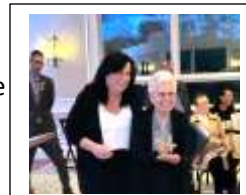
PARKING PASSES for convention: The passes are \$20 each and can be used anywhere in Lake George from Tuesday thru Saturday and anywhere there is a meter. All vehicles including first responder vehicles parking where meters are must have them OR pay to park. Contact Beth Brundage at bethblg@yahoo.com to reserve one for you or if you have any questions. This pass is cheaper than risking a parking ticket.

LA-HVVFA Apparel is always available with a touch of a few keys on your computer. Order online at: embroidery-and-morelic.myshopify.com/collections/la-hvvfa. There are currently 7 items available. Please make sure to choose sizes carefully as there are NO RETURNS OR EXCHANGES. The site accepts Mastercard, VISA, Discover and PayPal.

Around the Valley:

Albany County

Menands Fire Auxiliary No. 1 installed the 2025 officers on May 3rd at Wolferts Roost Country Club. Officers are President Joyce McGovern-Miller; Vice President Kerry Wroblewski; Secretary Valecia Parker; Treasurer Lisa Neuman; Sergeant at Arms Kevin Schwebke; Trustees Lisa Proskin, Mary Miles and Kerry Franklin. The President's Award was presented to Outgoing Secretary Sheila Hyatt in recognition of her 29 years of service in that position. During that time she worked with seven presidents and remains secretary to Menands Seniors Club and editor of the Menands Activities newsletter. Congratulations Sheila!



Greene County

Auxiliary of the Palenville Fire Department recently installed their 2025-2026 officers. They are President Breanna Lennon; 1st Vice President Kayla Gessner; 2nd Vice President Diane Crookston; Secretary Ashley Chicorelli; Treasurer Cathy Spring

Putnam County

Brewster Fire Dept and Ladies Auxiliary held their 155th annual installation dinner at the Candlewood Inn in Brookfield CT. Fire Dept. President Tommy Regan installed the auxiliary officers: President Eleanor Merrill; Vice President Susan Jamison; Secretary Sheri King; and Treasurer Karen Smith.

Carmel Fire Dept (which is celebrating their 110 years of service) and Carmel Fire Department Auxiliary held their annual installation at Villa Borghese in Wappingers Falls.

In honor of Carmel Fire Dept. Auxiliary's 75th Anniversary, Carmel Fire Dept. President Matthew Lubera awarded the auxiliary a plaque for all their years of service and dedication to the community. Newly elected auxiliary officers were installed: President Alicia Madden-Canfield; Vice President Dori Venezia; Secretary Heidi Wheelock; Treasurer Gina-Marie Pacicca; Directors Carol Madden and Louise Roberts. LAFASNY Past President Dianne Werner and LA-HVVFA 1st Vice President Gina-Marie Pacicca were present to hand out years of service certificates to four members of auxiliary. Being recognized were Alicia Madden-Canfield (25 years), Deb Efferen (40 years), Elaine Cole (45 years) and Linda Tompkins (55 years). Congratulations on your dedication to your community, Ladies!

Ladies Auxiliary of the Putnam CVFA attended Putnam County Day at the Firefighters home on May 4th. We had a great day at the home and a huge turnout from the ladies. Putnam County kickoff the "days at the home" events.

Orange County Report

Submitted by: Dot Brown, OCVF

Summer is around the corner and many events will be happening soon.

The county has been busy with Annual Dinners, Pancake Breakfast, and Recruit New York activities.

Orange County Volunteer Fire Police Association held their Annual Memorial Service on May 14, 2025, at Cronomer Valley Fire Department. The members that were remember Richard Mills from Mechanicstown Fire Department and Mark Torrado from New Hampton Volunteer Fire Department.

May 18 the Orange County Fire Police Association held their Annual Car Show in Goshen, NY.

It is this time of year the departments will be getting ready for their summer activities such as parades, fund raising and company picnics. Memorial Day is here and many fire departments will march in parades.

On May 27, 2025, OCVFA will be their meeting and recognized the Past Presidents of the Association at the Pocatello/Mount Hope Fire Company.

August 3, 2025, will be Orange County Day at the Firefighter's Home in Hudson, NY. It will start at 11:00 am and please come join us.

Orange County Volunteer Fireman's Association Convention dates are as follows:

September 21, 2025 – Memorial Service

September 25, 2025 – Convention meeting at Mombasha Fire Co.

September 27, 2025 is the Parade

Our next meeting will be July 29, 2025 at Cronomer Valley Fire Department. Dinner at 6:45 pm and the meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

Parade Rules –

Every year I get a few calls regarding my interpretation of a parade rule, my answer is always read them twice!

Here is a link to the HVVFA Parade Rules –

<https://www.hvvfa.com/content/parade/>

Good Luck everyone

HVVFA – LA CCONTINUED

Rockland County

Blauvelt Vol. Fire Company and their Auxiliary honored Diane Conklin for her 50 years of service to the auxiliary. She has served five terms as President of the Blauvelt VFA Ladies Auxiliary, two terms as President of Rockland County VFA Ladies Auxiliary. Currently Diane is Rockland County Vice President as well as 3 Year Director in LA-HVVFA. Congratulations, Diane, for your dedication.

Hillcrest Fire Company #1 Ladies Auxiliary recently installed their new officers. The leadership team consists of: President Lynne Zahlmann; Vice President Brittany Ben-Jacob; Secretary Rebecca Conjura. Congratulations to the newly installed officers of the Hillcrest Fire Company No. 1 Ladies Auxiliary!

Ulster County

Bloomington Ladies Auxiliary (located at 14 Taylor St in Bloomington) is hosting a Nickel Social on June 7th. Doors open at 6 pm with drawing to begin at 7:30 pm. Special tables along with 50/50 which are always favorites should be visited. Refreshments are available if you haven't had your dinner. ALL NEW ITEMS! Everyone is welcome! Come out and support your local auxiliary.

Warren County

Lake George Vol. Fire Dept. Auxiliary held a joint banquet with their department on April 5th at the Fort William Henry in Lake George. Newly elected 2025 officers were installed: President Patty Schuster; Vice President Angela Venum; Secretary Leisha McKinney; Financial Secretary Simone Ramsey and Treasurer Gail Corlew. During the evening some very dedicated ladies were recognized for their service to the community and the ladies auxiliary. LAFASNY President Toni Casey and LA-HVVFA Past President jointly honored the following: Maureen Gerber (20 years), Dana Whitcomb (25 years) Emilie Manion (35 years), Patty Schuster (40 years as well as Life Member of LA-HVVFA), Angela Venum (45 years). Congratulations on your dedication, Ladies!

LA-HVVFA would like to send a special THANK YOU to the Editor of this newsletter – Fran Galu. (Fran has decided to retire from this position.). Despite moving out of the Valley, you continued to support us by putting together the paper. It's been a pleasure being part of your team. Now you can relax a bit more! Sit back and have a glass or two and reflect on a JOB WELL DONE!

Hope to see everyone in Lake George! Remember to travel safe! Relax and enjoy the convention!

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

9/23

Rockland County Report
Submitted by: Chuck Larkin, RCVF

On Sunday March 30th, the Spring Valley Fallen Firefighters foundation and Spring Valley FD partnered with NY- Truck Work Fire Tactics to hold their 2nd Annual Jared Lloyd Memorial Training Day. During this training firefighters went through a lot of different scenarios to help prepare them for future situations they may find themselves in. Thank you to all of the participants, sponsors and people behind the scenes that helped make this day the best it could be. Never stop training!



On April 11th the Tappan Fire Department held their Annual Dinner and celebrated 2-time Ex-Chief Allan F. Seebach for his 75 Years of Service with the Department. Chief Seebach joined in 1950 and served as Chief from 1965-1967 and again from 1972-1974. He remains active with the Department and is a fixture around the firehouse. Congratulations Sir and thank you for your service.

Mike Wicks, a Vietnam Combat Veteran with the US Navy, Past RCVFA President and a 50+ year member of Wayne Hose Co. #1 in Stony Point, joined 80 fellow US Veterans with the Hudson Valley Honor Flight on Saturday, April 12th. They flew from Stewart Airport to Washington, DC and visited many memorials in and around the area including the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington for the changing of the Guard. Mike's daughter Kristen, a Wayne Hose Past President, joined him for the day as his Guardian. On another note, Kristen was honored in her own right a week earlier by NYS Assemblyman Christopher Eachus as one of the Extraordinary Women of the 99th Assembly District for being the first woman to serve as President of Wayne Hose Co. #1 and for her 20 years of service and leadership. Congratulations to Father and Daughter!



Every year during the second week of April, Rockland County joins in celebrating National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Dispatchers at 44-Control and across the county were recognized for their commitment and professionalism. The operators at 44-Control had themed attire days, such as "show your favorite team" day, and received breakfast and lunchtime donations from grateful emergency service agencies, citizens and businesses throughout the county. Thank you for all you do.



Departments across the County participated in the Annual Recruit NY and Light Up NY Red Campaigns in April in search of new and dedicated Volunteer Firefighters in their communities. They also participated in the Light the Night for Fallen Firefighters along with many other Rockland County residents to honor our fallen heroes. Many red porch lights, red candles and red light displays were seen throughout the County uniting us in remembrance.

The RCVFA celebrated their Past Presidents at the May monthly meeting held @ Alert Hook, Ladder & Engine Co. #1 of Congers. The Past Presidents each got a chance to speak about their time in office and their history in the fire service before and after their term. PP's in attendance were R-L Doug Mann (1981-82), Frank Voce (2010-12), Paul Schlegel (2012-14), John Intrieri (2014-16) and Mike Rivera (2020-22)

COMING UP

The 1st Annual Rockland LODD Monument Golf Outing will be held on Monday, June 23rd at the Phillip J. Rotella Golf Course in Pomona. For the last 4 years a committee from all facets of the Rockland County fire service has worked on and established a site location and design for a memorial dedicated to the firefighters from the County who perished in the line of duty, volunteer or career, past and future. They are now 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.

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

Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters' Association
Presents

“AN EVENING ON THE LAKE”

Come join us for a 3-hour tour on the majestic Lake
George

Finger Food included – Cash Bar

Thursday June 12, 2025 - Departure time – 6:00 pm

Open to All Hudson Valley members and

Immediate Family

Help Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Ladies
Auxiliary Please make your reservation early –

only 250 seats available

Adults \$35 – Children 15 and under \$20

If you have questions: email – schraderleeds@aol.com

Ulster County Report

Submitted by: Justus Rice, UCVP

As I sit here and write my article, it is raining again.
Hopefully we will see the sun soon.

May 19-23 is EMS week I would like to thank all our EMS
workers for all they do to care for people. May 22 there
will be an EMS dinner and Awards ceremony being held
at the Venue Uptown on Washington Ave Kingston.
Congratulation to all who win awards.

The county convention is coming up in July. July 25 is the
annual meeting being held at the ELKS Lodge in Napanoch
and the parade being held July 26 in Ellenville.

Cragmoor Fire Department will be celebrating 75 years
of service Congratulations

Upcoming events:

June 8 West Hurley Touch a truck 10am

June 7 Bloomington Nickle Social 6pm

June 26 UC Ladies Aux. Annual meeting with Pot Luck
dinner 6:30pm Modena Firehouse

May 26 Memorial Day Parades around the county

May 20 County meeting Napanoch

June 17 County Meeting Wallkill

I look forward to seeing everyone in June at the
convention

I would also like to thank Fran for all she did with the
publishing the newspaper.

**Rockland County Report
Continued**

The Tappan FD Ladies Auxiliary is holding a Scratch Off
Lottery Fundraiser for \$10 a chance. Winner will receive
1 full roll of \$10 NY State Lottery Scratchoffs, a \$500
value. Only 200 chances are being sold and the drawing
will be on Thanksgiving Day 2025. Contact Dianne
Werner for chances @ 914-263-8445 or
diannemw@optonline.net.

This will be my last newsletter article as HVVFA Rockland
County VP as I will be stepping down from the position. I
have enjoyed serving Rockland and the HVVFA for the
last couple of years and I would like to thank LuAnn
Edele, Fran Galu and Jim Hartwick as well as the late Stu
Gates for their guidance and help along the way. My
successor has not been selected as of the submission of
this article, but I wish them well and hope that they will
represent the Rockland County firefighters as well as I
tried to do. I am looking forward to becoming the new
editor of the Hudson Valley Firefighter in June when Fran
retires after a long and successful tenure as your editor.
Beat wishes for a Long, Happy and Healthy Retirement!

Rockland County mourns the loss of our Brothers and
Sisters

Empire Hose Co. #1, Piermont FD – Firefighter/EMT
Michael T. Chadwick

Lady Warren Hose Co. #5, Haverstraw FD – Life Member
Clarence J. Horan Jr.

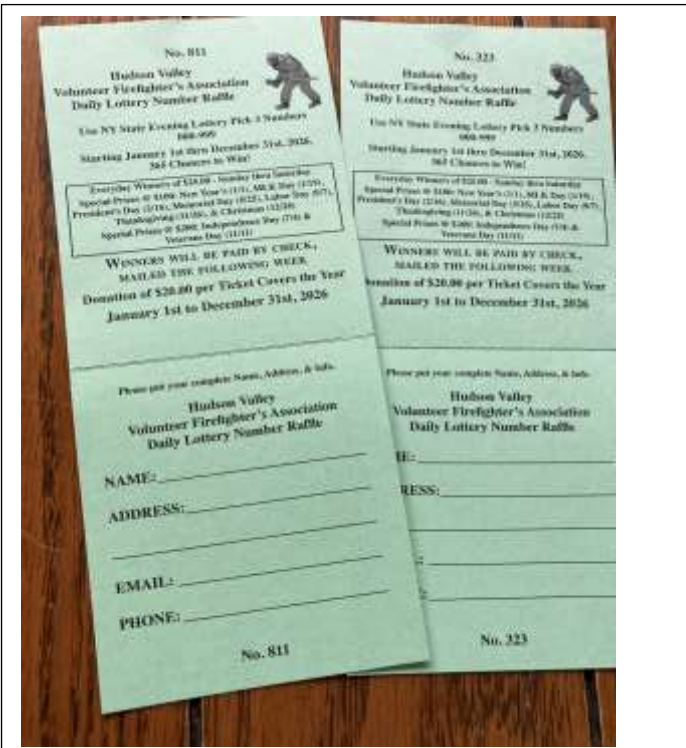
Empire Hose Co.#1 Ladies Auxiliary, Piermont FD – Past
President & Life Member Marilyn “Mom” Taulman
Volunteer Hose Co. #2 Ladies Aux, West Haverstraw FD
– Past President & Life Member Rosemarie Intrieri
Wayne Hose Co. #1, Stony Point FD – Firefighter Xavier
M. Egger

Blauvelt Volunteer Fire Co., Blauvelt FD – Life Member
James O’Connell

S. W. Johnson SFE Co. #1 Ladies Aux., West Haverstraw
FD – Member Margaret “Marge” Archambault

Hillcrest Fire Co. # 1, Hillcrest FD – Fire Police Officer,
RCVFA Director and RC Chaplain Stewart C. Rhymer

Orangetown Fire Company #1, Nyack FD – Life Member,
Ex-Captain & Commissioner William V. Motto



It's raffle tix time!

Can you say 365 chances to win! Run don't walk to get your tickets, this is the best raffle tix to have.

Support the HVVFA!

ROYAL ORDER OF THE BLUE VESTS

When I first sat down to write this article I knew I would mention our beloved Past President **Wilson McKay**, who passed late April. Little did I know that by the time I was ready to submit it, the Blue Vests would have lost yet another Past President, **John Way**. We have lost three great Leaders this year when we include the passing of **Fred VanLoan** in January. It is in their memory that this article is being written.

The **Royal Order of the Blue Vests** held its May 24th Meeting and Annual Family Picnic at the Firefighter's Home. It was nicely attended and although Mother Nature couldn't make up her mind that day between "rain or shine", it didn't deter our Home members from joining us! The meeting went well, the food was great, the company always the best! Was a great day thanks to Keith Henchey, Howard Montague and all of the Staff members who were involved to make this day happen for the Blue Vests!

This year's elections went very well (since no one was opposed so there *was* no election!), and our Counties' delegates were announced by those in attendance. Our new Officers, who will be installed on Saturday, June 21st are **Pres. Bruce Stockman** (Columbia), **1st VP Ed Butler, Jr.** (Putnam), **2nd VP Janine Wheeler** (Dutchess) and **Fin'l Secy/Treasurer George Hill** (Dutchess). I will be assuming the position of Recording Secretary. Thanks to **Pres. Jack Delaney** and **Secretary Marie Delawder** for the efforts they have put into their positions while they were in office.

Two by-law proposals were passed and will take effect after the close of this year's HVVFA Convention – one to ensure that the Firefighter's Home was specifically stated as a location choice for our meetings and another to officially

September installation dinner into the June Home Day festivities. This would make it easier for many members to attend this important event which has traditionally been held the Saturday evening before Hudson Valley Home Day. An additional by-law proposal outlining the membership requirements to hold office was read/moved forward. It will go for its second reading/vote at our October meeting.

Though this year Hudson Valley VFA set up a dinner-time boat ride in honor of the LAHVFA's 50th anniversary for the same day as our annual Outing, we are still planning to hold this event on Thursday, June 12th. Once again, we will be breaking bread with the Red Vests! (*We missed them last year!*) Originally planned for a different location, we will have our outing at the American Legion Post and it will be catered by Lake George's Barnsider Restaurant!

BTW, we need more raffle ticket buyers/sellers if this is going to be our only and continued fundraiser. So please reach out to me if you would like a ticket for our August raffle – we really could use your help! Contact me at luannedele@gmail.com or give me a buzz at 845-234-3127 if you'd like to help us with our Mission, which is to support the members of the Firefighter's Home and the Hudson Valley VFA. Thanks for considering this!

Wishing you all a safe summer and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Dutchess County Report

Submitted by: Kyle Pottenburgh, DCVP

As a follow up to March's article. Dutchess County Weekend made a triumphant return, marking its 29th successful event this year, special thanks to the unwavering dedication of the East Fishkill Fire District who allowed the committee to use its training center as a base of operations for this year's event. Over the course of two days, 92 students (87 from Dutchess and 5 from out of county departments) immersed themselves in four intensive NYS training classes. This revitalized initiative not only strengthens the capabilities of local firefighters but also fosters a deeper sense of community and preparedness.

Over the past few months, Dutchess County fire departments have come together to celebrate and honor their most dedicated members, those who have achieved 50 years or more of service in their respective departments and companies. This milestone reflects not only their unwavering commitment to firefighting but also their profound impact on the community.

The Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Association, alongside the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association and the Firefighting Museum of Dutchess County, have recognized these distinguished individuals with certificates of appreciation at numerous celebratory dinners. These events serve as a heartfelt tribute to the firefighters who have spent decades protecting lives, responding to emergencies, and mentoring the next generation of first responders.

As Dutchess County continues to uphold its tradition of excellence in emergency response, these firefighters stand as pillars of strength and inspiration. Their decades of service remind us all the importance of community, teamwork, and unwavering dedication to public safety

Name	Department	Years of Service
Joan VanTassel	Millbrook Rescue Sq	60
Rick Seaman	Millbrook FD	60
Bernard Roe	New Hackensack FD	60
Joseph Neiss	New Hackensack FD	55
Kevin Scofield	Rombout RD	50
Charles Theiss	Rombout FD	50
Daniel Silvestri	Rombout FD	50
David Montfort	Rombout FD	50
Lindsey Eggers	Wassaic FD	60
Raymond Oberly	West Clinton FD	50

On Sunday, May 18, the Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Association (DCVFA) hosted a heartfelt celebration at the Firefighters Home in Hudson, NY. The event, known as Dutchess Day, was a beautiful tribute to the dedicated firefighters who have given so much to their communities over the years.

Under clear skies and warm sunshine, the DCVFA provided an excellent meal to their friends at the home, ensuring that the day was filled with camaraderie, appreciation, and shared memories. The gathering was more than just a meal, it was a day of friendship and devotion, honoring the brotherhood and sisterhood of firefighting and recognizing the lifelong commitment of those who have served.

The Firefighters Home, a place of care and respect for retired firefighters, was the perfect setting for this meaningful occasion. The event reinforced the deep bonds within the firefighting community, reminding everyone of the selflessness and dedication that define the profession.

As Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Association continues to uphold its tradition of honoring those who serve, Dutchess Day stands as a testament to the unwavering support and gratitude extended to firefighters past and present

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

DCVFA Convention Parade: Pawling Friday, August 15th

Millbrook Fireman's Parade and Carnival: July 10 - July 12, 2025, with the Parade on Saturday July 12th.

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

J. H. Ketcham Hose Company 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 Company Monthly Pancake Breakfast: The 2nd Sunday of each month, Jan – May & Sept – Dec. 8:00am – 11:00am at 88 Old Hopewell Rd. Hughsonville

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

Albany County**Submitted by: Butch Recchia, ACVP**

On May 6th, the Albany County Volunteer Firefighters Burn Fund Committee presented a check to a Voorheesville Man whose residence was destroyed in a fire recently. This donation was made possible through the contributions of many of the Fire Companies and Auxiliaries in Albany County.

President Robert White recently presented David Juron a member of the Westmere Fire Department with 50-year Service Award. The presentation was done at the Albany County VFA Annual meeting on May 14th.

Dates and locations for two of the ACVFA important events have been set. Elsmere Fire Company "A" will be the host of this year's ACVFA Annual dinner on September 17th at their Fire House. Slingerlands Fire Dept will again host the Inspection Day on Sept 20 at their Fire House.

On May 14th the Association held their Annual Meeting at the Westmere Fire House. The following were elected to Office: Tom Cascone of Voorheesville as President. Matt Wilcenski of Delmar, First Vice President, Emily Hausman of Westmere as Second Vice President, Treasurer is Fred Pettingell of S.W. Pitts, Secretary is John Webb of Coeymans Hollow, Financial Secretary is Clayton Ash of Guilderland Center, Chaplain is Jonathan Hough of Elsmere, Sgt-at-Arms is Don Champion of Knox, Fifth Battalion Director is Henry Smith of Westmere and Sixth Battalion Director is Marc Platt of Midway. Past President Robert White now becomes Chairman of the Board.

Finally with Summer fast approaching many events will be taking place in Albany County over the next few months. To keep track of these events please check out our Facebook page (Albany County Volunteer Firemen's Association) soon.

Have a great and safe summer.

Warren County**Submitted by: Jessica McKinney, WCVF**

Hello everyone! Happy Spring!

As you all know, we are only a month away from the 136th annual convention being held in Warren County this year! We look forward to seeing all of you in attendance for the convention, meetings, parades, and festivities planned. If you have not already done so, please be sure to purchase your tickets for the boat ride on Thursday June 12th where we will be celebrating and honoring the HVFALA on their 50th anniversary.

If you are not attending the boat ride, Lake George Firehouse is hosting a Comedy Night featuring many comedians, including one of their own members, Caleb White! This event is located at Lake George Firehouse, 179 Ottawa Street. Doors open at 7:00pm! Cost is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. This event is suitable for those 18 years of age and older. If you would like to purchase tickets in advance, please visit; www.woodtheater.org for more information.

There will be plenty of things to do around Lake George and the county during the convention, please help us by supporting the local restaurants and businesses while you are here!

There were several fire departments who opened their doors for RecruitNY in April and had success in reaching out to their communities!

Memorial Day is coming up soon, a lot of local organizations participate in parades and memorials. Check out their social media pages.

As we come into the summer months, please be sure to check out local social media pages where a lot of information about local events are posted! I look forward to seeing you all at the convention!



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

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TO: