



From the desk of the President

Hello Firefighters and Friends;

Now that we are past this summer's heat waves I hope all of you will enjoy the cooler and beautiful days of fall. I again want to thank you for having trust and confidence in electing me to President of this great organization as I start my second year. I appreciate all the support, assistance, and suggestions over the past year. I look forward to serving you this coming year .

Our Convention in June at Lake George was a great success and we had great weather with no Saugerties rain. I want to thank Thomas McKinney and Chris Killmartin for all their hard work and long hours to make it a successful convention. Tom, George Hill and Karen Schrader worked many hours after the convention was long over to review invoices, payments and bank statements to prepare for reimbursement from the three municipalities occupancy tax funds to restore our Association funding. As I write this in the last week of July, Tom has spent over eight hours this week alone completing and uploading the required documents to receive these funds.

I want to thank Junior Past President Michael Karashay for his ear and wisdom over the last year. Mike chaired our Life Time Achievement Award this year and brought it back to life. At the convention in Lake George we awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award to Santos "Chan" Rivera, congratulations Chan.

We post many events, Association meetings, county meetings, death notices, and convention updates on Hudson Valley Website (hvvfa.com.) You can request 50 year and up certificates along with an HVVFA officer to present on the web site. If you are not on the web site 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.

I want to welcome to our team of officers and Director LuAnn Edele and John "Jack" Delaney as Financial Secretary. Myself, Robert Fritsche 1st VP, John O'Brien 2nd VP were elected last year to two year terms, so Bob and John will run for office next year. Re-elected to their positions were George Hill as Treasurer and Barbara Fischer as Recording Secretary. I want to thank Edward Butler for his years of service to this Association as Director and Joseph Mellan for his years of service as our Financial Secretary.

The Committee List for this year has be posted on the website. The Committee List when you sign in appears under "Online Tools" then under "Document Library." If you are interested in being on a committee, please reach out to me or one of the other Presidents with your interest. Your input on a committee helps bring new ideas to the committee and helps strengthen our organization.

Board of Directors (BOD) will continue to meet monthly by Goggle meet between Quarterly Meetings This has been an effective way for BOD to operate and make decisions timely.

Our legislative meeting will be held September 28th at 9:30 am at FASNY Firefighters' Home in Hudson. This is the time as members that you can bring forward your ideas for legislation that would help the fire service and public safety. If you can bring ideas written out, that would greatly help the Legislature Committee in understanding and developing your idea for future consideration.

This meeting helps our Association take grass root ideas for legislation forward to FASNY statewide legislature conference the first weekend of November in Troy. FASNY conference is where the FASNY Scorecard is developed to take forward to the State Senate and Assembly. Following the meeting we will have our Annual Hudson Valley Day at the Home (September 28), where we will treat Home residents to a meal, parade, and donations. I know it will be a good time as our Home Day committee lead by Yale Frank is working hard to make it a success. Your organizations should have received this information at beginning of July. All donations your organizations send to us for this Home Day goes to the home to cover equipment, renovations, and other items or expenses outside their budget.

Our October Quarterly meeting will be held end of October starting 1:00 pm with lunch served at 12:00 pm. Location will be determined by the time this Newsletter is out, so please look for location on the web page.

Continued on Page 2

Greene County Report

Submitted by: Karen Schrader, GCVF

Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association
Officers 2024-2025

President - Ryan Schrader

1 st VP – Jason Haines

2 nd 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

June; 10th - 14, HVVFA Convention was held in
Lake George. The establishments all worked
together that made it a fantastic convention.
Everyone enjoyed the festivities and the weather
was perfect. Look forward to next year.

Events around Greene County

July; 24th-27th , Greene County had a fire
prevention tent at the Greene County Youth Fair
with demonstrations and fire safety give- a-ways.
28th, food truck Monday at the Freehold VFC

August; 7 th , Greene County held their quarterly
meeting in Ashland. Graduating seniors
Scholarship winners attended the meeting.

10th, Ashland FD held a vendor & craft fair
23rd, Athens VFC held their annual chicken bbq

On September 14, East Durham VFC will be
climbing up to the 42 nd floor of the Corning Tower
in Albany to honor the heroic life and death of
Stephen Siller, a NYC firefighter who lost his life on
September 11, 2001 along with honoring all
the other brave firefighters that lost their life that
day. We wish them well as we all remember that
traumatic day and keep the families in our thoughts
and prayers.

Companies have been busy this summer with
many fundraiser events; here are a few upcoming
ones.

September; 22nd food trucks at Freehold Fire
Company, 5-8pm

27th open house at The Firefighters Home, 10am
corn hole tournament followed by home tours and
bbq.

October; 4th Ashland FD Centennial Music Fest
being held at Ashland Town Park, \$35 pre sale /
\$40 at the gate. Foodtrucks and music will be
starting at 10am.

19th West Athens Fire Station #2 chicken bbq, 1-
5pm. See a member to purchase tickets.

Rensselaer County Report

Submitted by: Brenda Gausby, RCVP

Summer was full of conventions, parades,
friendship, family, and fun. East Greenbush Fire
Department had an impressive turn out for line of
march and made the county proud during the
convention in Lake George.

September brings back pizza nights, breakfast
fundraisers and a Bureau of Public Services
calendar full of training opportunities.

Rensselaer County Fire Chiefs Association
(RCFCA) met on July 21 st at Pleasantdale FD with
a presentation by NYS Environmental Conservation
explaining their enforcement of state regulations and
how they interact with local fire jurisdictions.

Next meeting is September 15 at Hoosick FD with
an educational presentation by a NYS Ranger.

The plans are coming together for Rensselaer
county day at the firefighter's home on October 18
and will include a parade and socializing in the
pavilion.

Orange County Report

Submitted by: Dorothy Brown, HVVFA Director

By the time you read this Summer is almost over
and fall will be here soon.

August 3, 2025, was Orange County Day at the
Firefighter's Home in Hudson , NY. It started at
11:00 am and we had a great turnout . Everyone
enjoyed themselves. We raised \$5000.00 in
donations for Operation Small Change for the
Home. I would like to thank the men from Monroe
for cooking and Orange County Volunteer Ladies
Aux for the food and serving.



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. Start time 6:30 pm

September 27,2025 is the Parade. Line up is at
1pm and setoff is at 2 pm. In Monroe. The Fire
Departments are getting ready for their fall events.
Hope to see everyone at the convention.

Putnam County Report**Submitted by: David Cariddo, PCVP**

First I would like to mention, it's my pleasure to be representing Putnam County. I want to Thank the members for electing me to this position. I also want to Thank our Past County VP Luann Edele for her years of serving in this position. I have Big shoes to fill! Since the last article was written Putnam County has had somewhat of a busy summer.

On July 24th the Mahopac FD held their annual parade which was also the start of their annual fair.

July 28th was the PCVFA Convention held at the Lake Carmel FD our Annual Memorial service was conducted to remember Association members and Family members that passed during the previous year as well as presenting awards for Firefighter of the Year and EMS Provider of the Year, as well as some Civilian EMS awards and also a few of our Association members were recognized for 50 years of service in the Association.

A few of the upcoming events for September will be the Brewster FD parade also on that day the Putnam Valley FD will be hosting a Tinker Hill climb in remembrance of September 11th.

On September 21st the LAPCFA will be hosting LAHVFA at the Carmel FD for Gina Marie Pacicca of Carmel FD Auxiliary.

Sullivan County Report**Submitted by: David Cariddo, PCVP**

As I write this article the 4th of July holiday is upon us. Although by the time you read this it will have already past. I would still like to wish everyone a happy and safe 4th of July.

That also means we are into the heart of summer and here in Sullivan County that means its chicken bbq season. Many of our departments have held or are going to hold chicken bbq.

On June 10th 2025 the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association meet and elected new officers. On August 12th 2025 the SCVFA meet again and a final discussion was held for the upcoming 96th annual SCFVA parade to be held in Monticello on September 6th 2025. Discussions were also held for the upcoming SCFVA 66th Annual past presidents brunch.

Also Sullivan County Bureau of Fire Recruitment and Retention task force continue doing great work on efforts to recruiting new members to join our different departments here in Sullivan County. If you are in Sullivan County and are interested in joining the fire service please contact joinsullivanfire@gmail.com .

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
HUDSON VALLEY VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION
2025 AWARD WINNERS**

**FIREFIGHTERS OF THE YEAR
FIREFIGHTER EDDIE SEE
CHIEF JOHN CRONK
PLEASANT VALLEY FD**

**EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR
CAPTAIN KEVIN DURMER
BREWSTER FD**

**LIFETIME ACHEIVEMENT AWARD
HVVFA PAST PRESIDENT
SANTO "CHAN" RIVERA
NAPANOCH FD**

JOB WELL DONE GENTLEMEN!



**THANK YOU
LAKE
GEORGE!**

WHAT A GREAT 2025 HVVFA
CONVENTION! ALL OF THE EVENTS,
PARADES, PARTIES AND COMRADERIE
THAT WE SHARED OVER THE WEEK
WAS JUST ANAZING!

THANK YOU TO THE COMMITTEE, MY
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AND ALL
OF OUR HUDSON VALLEY
FIREFIGHTERS THAT MADE THIS A
MEMORABLE EVENT!
LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING BACK IN
2026

PRESIDENT BOB SCHRADER

HVVFA Ladies Auxiliary

Submitted by: Diana Balling

This entire column is done in Memory of President Judy Parsells who passed away shortly after the close of convention. Fly high with the Angels, Judy! Guide us from above!



As you read this article, the summer will soon be ending for another year! Hopefully everyone survived the heat and humidity! Fall will be a welcome reprieve!

In June LA-HVVFA celebrated it's 50th anniversary! What a great celebration it was! First needed to get business out of the way. Election of officers was done. The following officers were installed:

- ☐ President Judy Parsells – Orange County
- ☐ 1 st Vice President – Gina Marie Pacicca – Putnam County
- ☐ 2 nd Vice President – Megan Rivenburgh – Greene County
- ☐ Jr. Past President – Alison Englert – Greene County
- ☐ Recording Secretary – Diana Balling – Ulster County
- ☐ Financial Secretary – Tammy Nosek – Orange County
- ☐ Treasurer – Dianne Werner – Rockland County
- ☐ 1 Year Director – Joanne Jantz – Schenectady County
- ☐ 2 Year Director – Dana Navan – Rockland County
- ☐ 3 Year Director – Sheri King – Putnam County
- ☐ 4 Year Director – SuSu Scognamiglio – Westchester County
- ☐ 5 Year Director – Janine Wheeler

After lunch on Thursday, a beautiful memorial service was held remembering our deceased members. Chaplain Vickie Dichian always does a fabulous job.

After the close of convention, those attending the 50th Anniversary Boat Ride scrambled to change clothes and get to the boat! What a beautiful night on the lake celebrating with light snacks and music to dance by.



Some more pics of the 50th Anniversary Cruise up Lake George.



Friday morning, The Charter Members were recognized with 50 Year Certificates. There are currently 13 Charter Members still with us. Charter Members in attendance were Joanne Jantz, Josephine Burns and Dianne Werner.



Lake George Fire Department donated to the Firefighters Home in Hudson in honor of the LA-HVVFA 50th Anniversary.

Once again LA-HVVFA donated to the LA-HVVFA Firemens Home Activities Fund in the amount of \$2,500. For those that are not aware, this fund provides various activities that directly benefit the Residents of the Home. Examples of this would be trips to various firehouses for dinners, trips to Sawyer Ice Cream to get their ice creamfix at Sawyer Ice Cream in Saugerties and any other activity that Chairperson Marilyn Farrell can think of that will benefit all residents. Thank you, Marilyn, for being the chair of this fund and we know the Residents definitely appreciate each and every activity.

Rockland County Report

Submitted by: Lisa Castaldo, RCVF

The Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters Association is gearing up for our Annual Convention and Parade to be hosted by the Nanuet Fire Department on September 5th and 6th. We welcome all to join us! Nanuet Fire Engine Company is holding a 165th Anniversary 50/50 Raffle. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00. The drawing will take place on September 6th at 7:30 pm.

The RCVFA held its trip to the Firefighters Home on July 20th. Members, as well as Ladies Aux. members, visited with members of the home and staff. Everyone enjoyed the good weather, food, and musical entertainment!

Rockland County FTC graduation was held on August 13th. In the past 6 months, over 97 graduates from Rockland County Fire Departments have completed their firefighter training. We congratulate all our graduates!

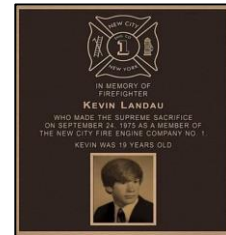
The town of Clarkstown in Rockland County dedicated a street in honor of Al Magnatta, age 100. Al is a World War II veteran and a member of the Congers Fire Department since 1946. He is an ex-chief and was a Deputy Fire Coordinator for Rockland until last year. Al is still an active firefighter and responds to alarms regularly.



A ground breaking was held in mid-June for the Rockland County Line of Duty Death Memorial on the front lawn of the Rockland County Courthouse. It is intended that this memorial will list all of the Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters who have made the supreme sacrifice as well as any Rockland County residents who have died in the line of duty as a paid firefighter outside of Rockland. Fundraising efforts for this memorial have begun and include a dinner on October 4th 4pm - 8pm held at SW Johnson Firehouse. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door, \$20 for children's menu and can be purchased from Troy Spong (845-721-7879). Dinner choices include chicken parmigiana with pasta, broiled salmon, or beef wellington!



New City Fire Department will honor the 50th Anniversary of the line-of-duty death of Firefighter Kevin Landua. The department has awarded a scholarship in his honor for the last 50 years to a graduating Clarkstown North High School senior. They would like to reconnect with any of the past recipients of this scholarship, so please pass the word to anyone you may know who have received it. They can reach out to the department at the following email: LandauMemorial@newcityfire.org. On September 24th, New City Fire Department will honor Kevin's life with a Memorial Mass at St. Augustine's Church followed by a dedication ceremony at Fireman Kevin Landau Park.



Rockland County Office of Fire and Emergency Services participated in the Clover Stadium Firefighter Appreciation Night in late June. The volunteer first responders were honored for their service to the county!

Rockland County Fire Explorers Post 44 will be holding a Carwash Fundraiser at the Stony Point Fire Department Substation on September 14th, 10 am - 3pm. Donations will be accepted and will go toward supporting training, equipment, and activities for the Explorer program!

Hillburn Ladies Auxiliary is holding a Tricky Tray Fundraiser on September 20th at the Sloatsburg Senior Center. Admission is \$20.

Congers Fire Department is hosting a Firemen's Carnival September 25th - 28th at the VMA Field, Lake Rd. Firehouse. There will be fireworks on Sunday!

Volunteer Hose Co. #2 is holding an Oktoberfest on September 27th, 12 pm - 6pm at Pecks Point Softball Field in West Haverstraw. Tickets are \$60 and include a mug, draft beer, soda, and water, American and German food, games, and music! Rain date is September 28th. **Cont' Pg. 8**

THIS PAGE IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:
THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF
The Royal Order of the Blue Vests

9/23

ROYAL ORDER OF THE BLUE VESTS

Since my last article, we held our "Blue Vests Day at the Home" the week after the HVVFA Convention (June 21 st) where we took advantage of our new by-law and merged our social day with our installation of officers and several Directors who were present, too! This new tradition of a daytime installation among our friends and fellow members of the Home definitely makes for a wonderful day for everyone!

Our official list of the Officers for the new 2025-26 term include:

Bruce Stockman – President Ed Butler Jr – 1st Vice-President Janine Wheeler – 2nd Vice-President
LuAnn Edele – Recording Secretary George Hill – Treasurer and Financial Secretary
Frank Roberts Sr. – Sergeant-at-Arms Victoria Dichian and Edgar "Jay" Brennan our Chaplains

As always, our day went very well, with tremendous thanks to Keith Henchey, Howard Montague, Tori Ozga and all of the Staff members who were involved to make this day a success for the Nut Busters. Not only was it well-attended by members and Home members alike, but we even had the pleasure of spending time with HVVFA/FASNY Past President Jim Burns, who was the newest member of the Home at the time!

The Blue Vests are already working on next year's joint Red Vests/Blue Vests outing in Lake George. This will be further discussed at our October meeting and hopefully we will be able to move forward with a location (caterer is already penciled in), to be ultimately shared with the Red Vests and HVVFA by our January meeting. Many thanks again to Red Vests President Dot Brown and VP Vickie Dichian for helping us with last year's event.

The tradition of our sponsoring the HVVFA Home Day luncheon jointly with the Red Vests continues on Sunday, Sept 28 th at, of course, the Firefighter's Home! If you can make it that day, please join in. It's also the same day as the legislative meeting, which always is interactive and informative and precedes the Home Day festivities.

The Nut Busters' next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 19 th at the Firefighter's Home. We enjoy having our meetings there as it gives many of the residents the opportunity to join us and alleviates their having to travel to an offsite location. This will be Pres. Stockman's first meeting at the helm so we are all wishing him a successful term as our 'chief'!

More details about future meetings and our Christmas event at the Home will be in the next Firefighter issue. Of course, if you're on our email distribution list, you'll find it out beforehand. If you're a member with email capability who doesn't already receive real-time emails from me, please email me at luannedele@gmail.com so I can add you to my next mailing!

Enjoy the upcoming Autumn season everyone – I hope to (let's sing!) "See Youuu at Home Day in Sep-temm-ber!" Or October 19 th , but there's no song for that! All the best, LuAnn Edele, Director

Warren County Report

Submitted by: Jessica McKinney-Benjamin, WCVP

Hello everyone!

On behalf of the 2025 Convention Committee we would like to thank everyone for their support! We had a very successful convention and we are looking forward to Lake George Fire Department for hosting next year. We hope you all had a great time! It was a pleasure seeing all of the wonderful Christmas themed floats!

Warren County is continuing to host many firematic classes and working on recruiting more volunteers. I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer!

Respectfully submitted, Jessica McKinney-Benjamin Warren County VP

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The Royal Order of the Red Vests, Inc.

12/23

Westchester County Report**Submitted by: Mickey Fritsche, WCVF**

Greetings from Westchester County VFA!
Our 119th annual convention meeting will be hosted by the Tarrytown Fire Department on Thursday, September 18th. They will also be having a friendship night on Friday, September 19th. And the 70th annual convention parade will be on Saturday, September 20th. We hope to see you there.

This year, the Westchester County Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, October 19th 10:00am at the DES Training Center, 4 Dana Rd. Valhalla.

We would like to remind everyone about the availability of our WCVFA merchandise through the online store:

<https://store.masteryourimage.com/wcvfa/shop/home>
For any questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me by email at msantucci11314@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted, Mickey Fritsche HVVFA
County VP for Westchester

Rockland County Report**Continued**

Orangeburg Fire Department will be hosting both a Halloween Parade and a Holiday Parade this year. Details can be found on their facebook page. They are also holding a raffle for a Polaris Sportsman 450 HO; chances are \$25.00 and the drawing will take place on December 13th after the Holiday Parade.

The Hillcrest Fire Department is hosting a Country Western Night on November 8th, starting at 8pm. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door and will include a live band and BBQ! Call 845-300-7314 or 845-536-4678 for tickets/information.

Tappan Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary is holding a Scratch-Off Ticket Lottery Fundraiser for \$10 a chance. Winner will receive a full roll of Scratch-Off Tickets (a \$500 value). Only 200 chances will be sold. Contact Dianne Werner at 914-263-8445.

We Mourn Our Loss

Frederick Simms Jr., ex-chief, fire deputy coordinator (44-3) of Rockland County, FDNY Captain, Tappan FD; NYS Fire Instructor at the Rockland County FTC.

Rudy Hansen, life member, Ex-Commissioner, Past President and Treasurer of Pearl River Hood and Ladder. Rudy was also active in the Rockland County Fire Police Association, serving as Past President, and Chaplain. He was Past President of the Association of Fire Districts of Rockland County and was Chaplain of the Rockland County Fire Safety Officers Association.

Michael R. Scanlan - Life Member of Empire Hook and Ladder, Nyack NY.

John (Jackie) Sullivan - member of Spring Valley Fire Department, and 31 year career NYC Emergency Medical Services, rising to the rank of Deputy Chief at FDNY EMS.

Roberta Doremus, Fire District Assoc. Treasurer, Tallman LA member, Rockland County LA member and past President, Fire Museum Charter Member and Treasurer.

Joyce Browne, RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary member and Fire Services Museum Charter Member

WESTCHESTER COUNTY VOL. FIREFIGHTERS ASSOC.
119th ANNUAL CONVENTION MEETING ★ 70th ANNUAL PARADE

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THEIR INVITATIONS BY NOW, IF YOU HAVE NOT, PLEASE CONTACT: SWEAVER@TARRYTOWNFD.ORG

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH - COUNTY CONVENTION MEETING - DINNER.
LOCATION: PORTUGUESE AMERICAN CULTURAL CLUB.
145 FRANKLIN ST. TARRYTOWN 10591
5:00PM - REGISTRATION OPENS
6:15PM - TRAINING SEMINAR
7:00PM - DINNER AND REFRESHMENTS
8:00PM - MEMORIAL SERVICE AND MEETING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH - T.F.D. FRIENDSHIP NIGHT.
LOCATION: LOT F - GREEN STREET SOUTH PARKING LOT (NEAR TARRYTOWN TRAIN STATION).
6:00 - 10:00PM (RAIN OR SHINE!)
REFRESHMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED.
FAMILIES ARE WELCOMED!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH - W.C.V.F.A. DRESS PARADE.
LINE UP: 303 SOUTH BROADWAY, TARRYTOWN
2:00PM LINE UP -- 3:00PM STEP OFF
THE PARADE ROUTE WILL BE SOUTH BROADWAY TO MAIN STREET WITH CROSSOVER TO LOT F (GREEN STREET SOUTH PARKING LOT).
THE REVIEWING STAND WILL BE LOCATED NEAR THE FIRE HEADQUARTERS ON MAIN STREET.
JUDGING WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE WESTCHESTER PARADE JUDGES ASSOCIATION.

CONSOLIDATED ENGINE CO. No. 1
100th ANNIVERSARY
TARRYTOWN N.Y.

2025
CO-HOST

Riverside Hose Co. No. 4
125th ANNIVERSARY

Dutchess County Report

Submitted by: Kyle Pottenburgh, DCVP

As the dog days of summer are now transitioning into early falls days, we think about the summer that was and the fall and winter approaching us. There were many events in the summer of 2025 that Dutchess County can be proud of.

We can start out with, On Saturday, June 21st, 2025, the Rombout Fire Company proudly celebrated the dedication of its new Station 2, located at 1548 Route 52 in Fishkill. In a moving tribute to tradition and progress, members marched from their former station on Cedar Hill Road to the new facility, symbolizing the department's enduring commitment to service and community. The event drew a large crowd, including local dignitaries and residents, who gathered to honor the volunteers and witness the unveiling of the state-of-the-art station and the 2025 Pierce 107' Ladder (62-49). The ceremony featured heartfelt speeches, guided tours, and refreshments, marking a new chapter in the company's legacy of protecting Dutchess County with pride and dedication.

Moving along, after several years of running in reverse, the Millbrook Fire Department proudly returned to its traditional parade route in 2025, beginning on the south side of the village and culminating at the historic Thorne Building on the north end of town. This nostalgic shift was warmly welcomed by the community, rekindling memories of past celebrations and reinforcing the department's deep-rooted connection to local heritage. Held on Saturday, July 12th, the parade was the highlight of a four-day Firemen's Carnival that ran from July 9th through the 12th, featuring thrilling rides, classic games, and festive food in front of the Thorne Building's band shell. With fire trucks, marching bands, and hometown pride on full display, the event marked a joyful reunion of tradition and community spirit.

The big winners of the Millbrook parade are as follows:

Trophies for in or Out of County
 Best Overall – Augustine Rotunno Memorial Trophy Best Overall: Union Vale Fire Department
 Best Appearing Firematic Color Guard: J.H. Ketcham Hose Co.
 Best Appearing Non-Firematic Color Guard: V.F.W. Post 9008
 Most Men in Line: Pleasant Valley Fire Dept.

Best Appearing Engine; Stottville Fire Department
 Best Appearing Aerial: J.H. Ketcham Hose Co.
 Best Appearing Rescue: Chelsea Fire Co.
 Best Appearing Antique: J.H. Ketcham Hose Co.
 Farthest Distance Traveled: Stottville Fire Department
 Best Explorer Unit/Jr. Fire Unit: Stottville Fire Department

Trophies for in County
 Best Appearing Regulation 15 and over: JH Ketcham Hose Co.
 Best Appearing Non-regulation: Pawling Fire Department

Trophies for Out of County
 Best Appearing Regulation: Stottville Fire Department
 Best Appearing Non-Regulation: Sharon Fire Department

Musical Units Best Musical Unit: Sons of Portugal
 In a proud moment for Dutchess County's fire service, when 51 dedicated individuals graduated from their Firefighter I and Basic Fire Operations (BFO) programs on Friday, June 26th, 2025 and Friday August 8, 2025, at the East Fishkill Fire Training Center. These graduates completed either the traditional Firefighter I course or an intensive two-week boot camp format, demonstrating resilience, teamwork, and a deep commitment to public safety. Each graduate was honored with a certificate of completion, a DCVFA-issued Nomex hood, and a one-year membership in the Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Association, which welcomed them into a brotherhood of service and tradition. Their achievement marks the beginning of a lifelong journey of courage and community dedication.

Now fresh off the wire, as I am writing this report it has been announced that Dutchess County executive Sue Serino has appointed William H. Beale as Commissioner of Emergency Response. A lifelong public servant with over two decades of experience in emergency services, Beale brings a wealth of leadership and operational expertise to the role. His distinguished career includes service as Chief of the Hughsonville Fire Department and Director of Emergency Management for the County, where he oversaw critical preparedness and response initiatives, including the county's Emergency Operations Center. Beale's appointment reflects Dutchess County's continued commitment to excellence in public safety and emergency planning, and his leadership will be

Dutchess County Report Continued

instrumental in guiding the department through future challenges and innovations. Mr. Beale's appointment will have to be confirmed by the county legislature at their next meeting.

The Dutchess County Volunteer Firefighters Association (DCVFA) held its annual convention and parade with great pride and celebration in 2025. The convention meeting took place on Tuesday, July 18th at the Pawling Fire Station, where eight firefighters were awarded scholarships to further their education, reflecting the association's commitment to growth and excellence. Among the honorees that evening, Hughsonville Fire Commissioner Marc Liebermann was recognized for an extraordinary 55 years of service to DCVFA, while Hughsonville Firefighter Daniel Mochon received accolades as FASNY Mentor of the Year. Unit citations were presented to both Hughsonville and Pawling Fire Departments, with Deputy Chief Chris Green earning an honorable mention award. The evening's most heartfelt tribute went to Pleasant Valley Chief John Cronk and Firefighter Eddie See, who were named Firefighters of the Year for their heroic rescues during a structure fire last fall. The festivities culminated in a vibrant parade on Friday, August 15th in Pawling, showcasing the spirit, dedication, and unity of Dutchess County's fire service. The event was attended by many local and state dignitaries and families and friends of the award winners. The big winners of the County Convention parade will be printed in the next newsletter due to deadline restraints.

On July 1st, 2025, Dutchess County quietly marked a milestone of immense significance, the 60th anniversary of its role in dispatching fire emergencies. A modest yet meaningful gathering was held to honor the occasion, bringing together dignitaries, current and past dispatchers, and notable figures from the county's firematic community. The event served as a tribute to six decades of unwavering dedication, coordination, and service that have shaped the county's emergency response system. From its early days of rudimentary communication to today's sophisticated dispatch operations, During the event the 911 observation room was rededicated in the name of Al Kaehler, the only remaining of the original 4 county dispatchers. Dutchess County's commitment to protecting **Cont' Pg. 11**

Saratoga County Report Submitted by: LuAnn Edele, HVVFA Director

In the absence of our past (& beloved) two-time HVVFA County Vice-President, I hope to be able to share some information regarding the county he resided in and represented – Saratoga. It appears there are 30+ volunteer fire departments (or companies) in this region. I would like to share a few things I found online for this issue and please know that it is not all-encompassing!

Early in August, Ballston Spa FD was the "Mystery Reader" for the Ballston Spa Public Library's Summer Program. The department members enjoyed reading to the kids, then talked about fire safety and answered questions about what tools they have on their truck. Wise words from their post – "Remember it's never too early to start teaching kids about fire safety"!! The Ballston Spa Community Center was another place they spread those wise words, engaging with the children there! Halfmoon-Waterford Fire District is celebrating 100 Years of Service this year and they're having a fun-filled Open House event on September 6th from noon-till 3PM (315 Middletown Rd, Waterford). Open to the public, there'll be firehouse and truck tours, food and beverages, activities and games for the kids and a recruitment table for those interested in signing up!

Neighboring Clifton Park Volunteer FD will be showing its support at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Emergency Corps' Benefit Night on September 9th from 5–9 PM at the 30 Park Restaurant and Bar (30 Clifton Country Rd, Clifton Park). The restaurant will donate 15% back to CPHM's Outreach Department. Their Outreach Department is funded entirely through donations, which make it possible for them to host car seat safety events, community CPR classes, etc.

Last, Harmony Corners Volunteer FD held its annual chicken BBQ earlier this year that seems to have been a big hit as it once again sold out! HC volunteers worked together for two days to bring this well-anticipated BBQ to the public. According to their Facebook post, if you missed their May event, there is another planned for September! Details will be posted on their page once confirmed, including where to get your tickets!

That's it for this issue. Till the next, stay safe!
LuAnn Edele, Director

Legislative News

Submitted by: **Jim Hartwick, Legislative Chairman**

RCVFA Scholarship Winner - Raymond Facinelli a graduate of Albertus Magnus High School is the recipient of the Rockland County VFA Stuart L. Gates Memorial \$1,500 Scholarship for 2025. He will be attending Fairfield University in Connecticut to pursue a bachelor's degree in either business or engineering. As noted in his essay "I believe technical knowledge paired with a heart for volunteering can drive real change. Every act of service helps create a stronger, more compassionate community."

Legislative Conference September 28, 2025

The annual HV Legislative Committee meeting will be held on September 28th at 9:30 a.m. as part of our annual HVVFA Day at the Fireman's Home in Hudson, NY. We will meet in the Multi Purpose Room in the Firefighters' Home. Our agenda will begin with a review of the 2025 FASNY Scorecard of bills that were introduced in the legislature for the 2025-2026 legislative sessions and then a discussion on other legislative issues.

Distinguished Eagle Scout - Michael Karashay
Congratulations to our past President Michael Karashay on being honored as a Distinguished Eagle Scout. The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA) was established in 1969 by the National Eagle Scout Association to recognize Eagle Scouts who have achieved an extraordinary level of recognition, and a strong record of voluntary service to their community. Stringent criteria begin with a minimum of 25 years "Time in Service" from the official record date an Eagle rank was earned. That requirement was determined by the average time most nominees need to establish a career, earn peer recognition, awards and other factors that are considered for DESA selection. A committee comprised of Distinguished Eagle Scouts carefully reviews all nominations and determines selections.

Michael's extraordinary community service since he became an Eagle Scout in 1975 was outlined in the nomination letter presented to the DESA Board that highlighted his community service: His involvement included the various activities in his hometown of Saugerties with the R.A. Snyder Fire Company and his extended service with the Ulster County VFA, Hudson Valley VFA and FASNY all involving leadership positions. In addition his service extended to his Village Board of Trustees and

Cont' Pg. 12

Dutchess County Report Continued

lives and property has remained steadfast. The anniversary was not only a celebration of history, but a reaffirmation of the vital role dispatchers continue to play in the safety and resilience of the community.

COMING EVENTS:

- DCVFA Quarterly Meeting: Red Hook Fire station, 42 Firehouse Lane, Red Hook, NY. Tuesday Oct. 21, 2025 @7:00pm.
- DCVFA Annual Memorial Ceremony: Sunday Oct 5, 2025, Starting at 1:00pm at the Dutchess County 911 Center, 392 Creek Rd. Poughkeepsie NY.
- Dutchess County Memorial Motorcycle Ride: Sunday, Oct 5, 2025. Kickstands up at 11:00am From the Dutchess County 911 Center, 392 Creek Rd. Poughkeepsie, NY. Being sponsored by The Red Knights of Dutchess County.
- East Clinton Fire Department 44th Annual Surf and Turf Dinner: East Clinton Firehouse #9 firehouse Lane, Clinton Corners, N.Y. Saturday Sept 27, 2025, Eat in or take out.
- Millbrook Fire Department Golf Outing: James Baird State Park. Friday, Sept 26, 2025. Rain or Shine. Registration 8:45, Tee Time starts at 10:00am.
- 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, NY.
- 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 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, NY.
- 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.

Legislative News Continued

various committees where his planning and and program ideas were implements for the betterment of the residents.

Michael is active in many service organizations that appeal to his interest to support individuals and families in need, fund raising for local nonprofits, youth programs and civic or religious organizations that foster community fellowship. He is active in his church St. Mary of the Snow, the service club Blue Kats and supporter of the Lamourlee – Hackett American Legion where his wood working skills have created display cases for military memorabilia. He is still active in scouting and a role model for the young boys in earning merit badges and the skills for camping.

The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award is thus the National Eagle Scout Association's highest honor for Eagle Scouts. Congratulations Mike on receiving this meritorious award.



136TH ANNUAL HVVFA CONVENTION





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HV Firefighter Editor

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HUDSON VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION
UPCOMING EVENTS

**Hudson Valley Day at the Home &
Legislative Meeting**

FASNY Firefighters Home, Hudson NY

Sunday, September 28, 2025

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Join us at 9:00 AM for the Hudson Valley Legislative meeting will be held at Multi-purpose room inside Home. Followed the Legislative Meeting the annual Day at the Home will take place at Multi-purpose building.

**HVVFA Board of Directors Quarterly
Meeting**

**Athens Fire Company 39 Third Street,
Athens, NY**

Saturday, October 25, 2025

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Lunch/Refreshments will be served at 12 noon.



**If any Company or Department is interested in 100%
Membership in the HVVFA
Please contact the Financial Secretary
Jack Delaney**

**THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER
c/o Chuck Larkin, Editor
15 Blanchard Rd.
Stony Point, NY 10980**

TO: