

VOLUME NO.
2025

THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER
ORG. 1889
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.
2

From the desk of the 1st Vice President

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL

I would like to take the time to wish all of our Officers and Members along with your families a safe and happy holiday season from myself and my family. Since September the Presidents have been busy traveling around the Valley attending various functions networking and spreading the word about Hudson Valley. Just recently the Legislative Committee held our annual Legislative meeting at the Firefighter's home in conjunction with our annual Day at the Home. It was a successful day of events, and as always it is good to visit with our residents at the home. I would like to give Director Yale Frank a shout out for chairing the day at the home and making it another good day to be had by all.

Our October Quarterly meeting was held on October 25 th at the Athens Fire Department. The Associations thanks Athens for their hospitality and the delicious Pizza made right in their ovens. Association business was attended to as it was a productive meeting. The January quarterly meeting will be held at Cronomer Valley on January 24 th at 1:00pm.

For those of you that were not at the Quarterly meeting in Athens, it was announced that when you put in a request for a 50-year certificate, etc., please make sure the honoree or Company is a member of the Hudson Valley and that all the information is filled out correctly and check the box "Yes" for Hudson Valley representation. If none of the three Presidents can attend, which happens on occasion, the President will reach out to either a Director or a Past President to attend the function. This should clear up any confusion moving forward.

We post many events on the Hudson Valley website (hvvfa.com). If you are not signed up on the website, please sign up in the Members area and provide us with your email. With this information, we can get important information out to you in a timely manner. The Board of Directors continue to meet via Google Meet on the months between our Quarterly meetings to discuss any business that needs to be taken care of to keep this fine association moving in the right direction

The Lake George Fire Department, the host of our 2026 annual convention, gave their report in Athens. Everything is moving forward as planned. The dates are June 11 th -13 th . The theme of this year's convention is "Happy Birthday America 250 years of Independence" So put your thinking caps on and show off your floats at the annual Maris Gras parade on Friday night. Good luck to all. All other convention information will be posted on the website under "News" then "Convention" then click on "Host". Make sure to make your room reservations early. The Association voted to give the Host the opportunity to request that the convention be moved a week earlier to avoid Graduations and the Juneteenth Holiday.

In closing, stay safe out there, remember to train hard and use that training on the scene, remember, two in and two out, everyone goes home, no matter what the size of the incident. It's your second family, so take care of your brothers and sisters.

Robert Fritsche

Greene County Report

Submitted by: Karen Schrader, GCVP

Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association. We had a successful fun convention in

September, Congratulations to Officers 25-26.

President – Jason Haines

1 st VP – Jeffery Coyne

2 nd VP – Ted Nugent Jr

Secretary - Liza Down

Treasurer – Maureen Kaminski

Fin. Secretary – George Stacey

It's that time of year to get ready for the Holidays and share time with family and friends Events around Greene County; check our Facebook page for more information

December 6 th – Ashland VFD breakfast
7:30-11:30 free will offering

December 7 th – DM Hamilton Annual Holiday craft fair, 10-3

December 7 th Christmas Party at the Firefighters Home – annual parade of lights, line up at 5:30pm with step off at 6:00pm

Athens VFC Thursday night pizza – 4-7
October to the end of March

East Durham VFC annual breakfast – 8-12
January 1, 11, 18, 25 Feb. 1- free will offering

GCVFA Quarterly meeting February 5, 2026
6:30dinner/7:30meeting hosted by Haines Falls at Tannersville Fire Station

Wishing you and your family all the warmth this holiday season has to offer.

Rensselaer County Report

Submitted by: Brenda Gausby, RCVP

As 2025 ends, I'll reflect on a few recent events:

The county held it's 20 th annual memorial service on October 5th at 3:00pm in the Bulmer Auditorium on the Hudson Valley Community College campus. Those honored included men and women from law enforcement, fire and EMS for their dedication and service, and for the first time the event was livestreamed for those who could not attend in person.

Rensselaer County Day at the Firefighter's home took place on October 18 th and with 25 participants representing Castleton, East Greenbush, Hoags Corners, Melrose, Nassau and South Schodack Fire departments. Following an apparatus parade the association leadership and many first-time visiting firefighters toured the home and were greeted by residents, staff, and a trustee.

After luncheon with their visitors the resident's enjoyed music arranged by the county. Cannot wait to see what is planned for 2026.

In addition to the regular bi-monthly meetings held on September 15th and November 17th, RCFCA celebrated their 81st Anniversary and Award ceremony on November 22nd at the Poestenkill FD the following 2024-2025 award recipients were honored:

WILLIAM J COWEE AWARD –awarded to a business who helps or contributes to the County fire service. Sponsored by the Berlin Fire Department - Awarded to The Law Firm of Alex Dell

FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD – Sponsored by RCFCA. Awarded to Paramedic Kyle Ryan of the City of Troy Fire Department and Paramedic Anthony Nardone of the Johnsonville Fire Department (while serving with the Hoosic Valley Rescue Squad)

MICHAEL D. FALKOUSKI ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE YEAR - Sponsored by the City of Rensselaer Fire Department - Posthumously awarded to Assistant Chief David Plew of the Brunswick 1 Fire Company

Rensselaer County Report

Continued

JACK LEARY FIRE CHIEF AWARD - Sponsored by the East Greenbush Fire Department Awarded to Chief of Department, William F Brooking Jr. of the City of Rensselaer Fire Department.

During December fire departments will host pizza nights, holiday themed breakfasts, community parties and participate in festive parades in multiple towns across the county.

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

Columbia County Report

Submitted by: John Meehan, CCVP

As we move onto another season, Fall has been interesting. Trainings continue in Columbia County. No large fires lately, some car accidents though.

Now that winter is to come, we all need to be prepared to address the coming snows. Be ready with the proper clothing and shoes. Let's be safe out there!

Columbia County Fire Police meeting was held on Nov. 13th, at the Beacraft Fire house, part of Greenport FD., a Great meal was served

There will be an upcoming Columbia County meeting for the VP, myself and I will advise a date time and location to be in December of 2025, I believe.

The County has been quiet, but now the cold has set in, chimney fires begin.

All be well and take care of others in these, hard times we all are going through.

Sullivan County Report

Submitted by: Shane LaVecchia, SCVP

On September 6th 2025 the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association held their 96th Annual Parade hosted by the Monticello Fire Department. A good time was had by all and the Loch Sheldrake Fire Department took home the Blue Trophy.

Then on September 28th, 2025 the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association held their 66th Annual Past Presidents' Dinner. At the dinner Thomas Dempsey and Craig Burkle were Awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award and taking home Firefighter of the Year Awards were Mark Johnstone and Joseph Hand.

On October 26th 2025 colleagues, friends and family of the late Richard "Dick" Martinkovic gathered at the Sullivan County fire training center to honor his life, legacy and dedication to the fire service and put his name on the training center that now reads Richard A. Martinkovic Public Safety Training Center. A Photo of Richard was also unveiled and will proudly hang in the training center forever.

As Always, the Sullivan County Bureau of Fire Recruitment and Retention task force continues 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.

In closing this article out the weather is starting to get cold which means it is pancake breakfast season here in Sullivan County with many departments having held or holding pancake breakfasts. The holiday season is also upon us so I would like to take a moment to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy and Safe New Year!



HVVFA Ladies Auxiliary

Submitted by: Karen McDonald,
LA-HVVFA Liaison

This year is sure flying by and the Holidays are upon us and the LA-HVVFA has been busy. At our September meeting in the Carmel Firehouse Gina-Marie Pacicca was officially named President of LA-HVVFA and presented the President's pin by Jr. Past President Alison Englert.



We were happy to accept some new members and start planning for next year's Convention in Lake George. Daily Drawing tickets for our December drawing were distributed and the ways and means tables were busy with many beautiful items for member to purchase or win.

Then before you know it our November meeting at the Coxsackie Hose Company #3 was here. A new by-law was discussed, information on our apparel website along with boosters for the 2026 LA-HVVFA Convention Journal were available for members to purchase or take with them to sell. We all enjoyed getting a head start on holiday shopping with the Christmas Boutique Second Vice President Megan Riverburgh with the help of member donations had set-up.

We are always looking for new Auxiliary and Individual members. If your local Auxiliary, its members, your spouse or significant other are not a member and would like to learn about us or join us they can get more information about our Auxiliary by contacting any member or Officer listed on the HVVFA website listed under the Ladies auxiliary tab. They are also invited to attend our next meeting on April 19, 2026 at the Coldenham Fire Department, 511 Coldenham Rd, Walton, NY 12586. There will be a luncheon at 12 noon with the meeting starting at 1pm.

Ulster County Report

Submitted by: Justus Rice, UCVP

As I sit hear and write my article It is a little chilly out. I hope to find everyone well.

With the holidays coming up I know Santa will be making his rounds visiting firehouse in the coming month.

Some dates for Breakfast are:

December 7 Wallkill Firehouse and Esopus firehouse.

December 14 West Hurley Fire house and Kerhonkson Firehouse.

December 21 Port Ewen Firehouse

Most of the breakfast start at 8am and go until 11am.

Please watch the Ulster County Web Page as they post upcoming Events.

The Uster County meeting was held November 18, 2025 at Marlboro Firehouse.

I also attended the Past President dinner for Past President Frank Bauer from Ellenville Fire Dept.

On a sad note, I did attend the Celebration of Life for Past Chief Mike Denson from Woodstock Fire Dept.

I hope everyone has a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.



Rockland County Report

Submitted by: Lisa Castaldo, RCVF

The 113th Annual RCVFA Convention and Parade and Nanuet Fire Engine Company 165th Anniversary was held September 5th and 6th. RCVFA 25 & 50 YR Members were recognized at the RCVFA Convention held on September 5, 2025 hosted by Nanuet Fire Department.

25 Year Members

Drew Burke, Hillcrest Fire Co #1
 Lisa Castaldo, SW Johnson SFE Co. #1
 Matthew Centofanti, Alert Hook, Ladder & Eng. Co #1.
 AJ Knapp, Nanuet Fire Engine Co #1.
 John Schaber, Hugh Gassner Fire Company
 Michael Shields, Alert Hook, Ladder & Eng. Co #1.

50 Year Members

Robert B. Arena, Suffern Hook & Ladder Co #1
 Charles Caselli, Alert Hook, Ladder & Eng. Co #1
 Kevin J. Gannon, Sloatsburg Fire Dept.
 Steven M. Gottsch, New City Fire Engine Co.
 Simon N. Hader, Brewer Fire Engine Co #1
 John P. Kapral, Columbian Engine Co #1
 Joseph M. Kapral, Columbian Engine Co #1
 John Long, Sloatsburg Fire Dept.
 Walter A. Morris, Brewer Fire Engine Co #1
 Stephen R. Ong, Nanuet Fire Engine Co #1
 Robert H. Sullivan, Lady Warren Hose Co #5
 James J. Swift Jr, Rescue Hook & Ladder Co #1
 Paul D. Wanamaker, Empire Hook & Ladder #1

PARADE WINNERS 113th RCVFA Convention Saturday, September 6, 2025. Thanks to the Westchester County Parade Judges Association.

1st Place Chief's Vehicle - In Or Out Of County – Tappan
 1st Place Non-Motorized Antique - In Or Out Of County – Stony Point
 1st Place Motorized Antique - In Or Out Of County – Tappan
 1st Place Fire Apparatus - Out Of County – Chester Engine
 1st Place Tanker - In Or Out Of County – Spring Valley
 1st Place Aerial – Tappan
 1st Place Rescue - Pearl River
 1st Place Engine - 1 To 10 Years – South Spring Valley
 1st Place Engine - Over 10 Years – Haverstraw 4-1750

1st Place Firematic Color Guard - Out Of County – Slater Chemical
 1st Place Firematic Color Guard – Pearl River
 1st Place Ladies' Auxiliary - In Or Out Of County
 1st Place Firematic Unit - Out Of County - Chester
 1st Place Firematic Unit Class C (5 - 12) - Sparkill
 1st Place Firematic Unit Class B (13 - 20) - Garnerville
 1st Place Firematic Unit Class A (21 & Over) - Hillcrest
 Best Overall Fire Apparatus - In County – South Spring Valley Aerial
 Best Overall Firematic Color Guard - In County – Hillcrest
 Best Overall Firematic Unit - Out Of County – Slater Chemical
 Best Overall Ladies' Auxiliary - In County - Garnerville
 Best Overall Firematic Unit - In County – Nyack

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit visited Rockland County in early October. The free exhibit is set on trailers to allow it to bring the experience to many in New York who can't easily visit the NYC area. It was parked in the Nyack Marina parking lot, and the moving tribute was experienced by many Rocklanders. The 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit is a tribute to all who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, including the 343 members of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) who made the ultimate sacrifice, and all who continue to lose their lives to 9/11-related illnesses. This high-tech, 83-foot tractor-trailer, which transforms into an 1,100 square foot exhibit, is a tool to further educate people across the country about the events of that tragic day. Thank you to the Towers To Tunnels Foundation for this tremendous opportunity.

At the October 10th meeting of the Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters Association the Association appointed Firefighter Shawn Farkas of the Spring Valley Hook & Ladder Company as the Sergeant at Arms for the 2025-2026 year. Shawn is a regular at our monthly meetings and this is a well deserved appointment. Good Luck Shawn the officers and members will support you in this position. If anyone else is looking to get involved please come to our meetings or contact one of our officers.

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

9/23

FROM THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE BLUE VESTS

Greetings and news from the Nut Busters! President Bruce Stockman held his first meeting as the leader of the Blue Vests on October 19th at the Firefighters' Home, a meeting that was well-attended by traveling Blue Vests members and those Blue Vests members of the Home as well!

That day we got to see our new box trailer – just purchased that week for us to 'cart around' our golf cart! The golf cart is now complete – cart, trailer and outer trailer for storage and traveling – thanks to the hard work and hours put in by Past President Paul Schlegel, wife Denise, Sgt-at-Arms Frank Roberts Sr and HVVFA President Bob Schrader. We thank them greatly for their tremendous efforts from beginning to end!

Our next event will be our annual Christmas Party at the Home, which will take place on Saturday, December 20th. Not only will there be food (compliments of Hillcrest and Wayne Hose FDs), fun (Bing-o!) and frivolity (who isn't silly at Christmas time?), we've learned that a very jolly couple from the North Pole will be joining us that day!! We hope you'll join us, too; our day begins at noon.

Now, that said, mark your calendars again because our first meeting in 2026 will be on Sunday, January 25th, the day after the HVVFA Quarterly meeting. It will again be held at the Firefighter's Home, but in the Main House (Multi-Purpose Room, not Building) given the season.

Looking ahead to our annual Convention Steak Roast being held on Thursday, June 11, Pres. Stockman has already secured the caterer and location for this tried, true & traditional event. Details will come later, we just needed pen to paper to get the ball rolling and, as far as I know, the ink is dry! If you're on our email distribution list, you'll be the first to know about any of the events scheduled for next year – including our May meeting/family picnic and our June Day at the Home that now includes our installation of officers!

Before I close this article, my last of 2025, I want to thank all of you for supporting the residents of the Home, not to mention that the Nut Busters as a whole would like to wish each of you a joyous Holiday season and all the very best for the upcoming New Year! Whichever holiday you celebrate – Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or another! – "may your days be Merry and Bright"!! Talk to you again next year! - LuAnn

Putnam County Report
Submitted by: David Cariddo, PCVP

As we head into the Holiday season, we have a bunch of activities happening throughout the County. On November 29th the Carmel FD hosted their Holiday Friendship night. During the month of December, the Mahopac Falls FD will be hosting their Holiday Friendship on December 19th and on December 12th the Mahopac FD will be hosting their annual holiday Friendship night.

During the month several Depts. will be bringing Santa around their Districts to help spread holiday cheers to the Communities. On behalf of the Officers and Members of Putnam County we wish everyone a Safe and Enjoyable Holiday Season.

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The Royal Order of the Red Vests, Inc.

12/23

Rockland County Report Continued

The Emergency Management Division of Rockland County proudly launched a new webpage and mascot just for kids! Emergency Preparedness isn't just for adults — it's for children too. With the help of Riley the Preparedness Raccoon, kids can learn safety tips while having fun at the same time! Check out our brand-new kids' pages here: <https://www.rocklandcountyny.gov/.../emergency..> Let's work together to keep our families safe — one raccoon paw at a time!



The Rockland County Fire Instructor Association proudly presented "Engine Company High Intensity Training Day" (HIT). Sunday October 12th, 2025 at the Rockland County Fire Training Center. Limited to 80 students, this full day training was fast-paced and packed with Engine Company knowledge brought by street experienced Instructors. All proceeds from the event supported the Lt. Andy Fredericks Scholarship Fund.

The Rockland County Fire Training Center has just received a Backdraft Simulator from Symtech Industries. This was delivered last week and set in place on a new concrete pad. The next step is for Symtech to provide training for our fire instructors. At this time, we have no specific date when it will officially be in operation. We are excited for this brand-new training prop at the Rockland FTC.

Assemblyman Patrick J. Carroll hosted a breakfast on National First Responder Appreciation Day to thank local first responders — and shared some delicious baked goods generously donated by Rockland Bakery. He stated "We are one of the safest communities in

New York and the nation because of the amazing, dedicated first responders who serve all of us each day. There are no words — and no baked goods — that could properly convey all of our thanks, but it was my sincere honor to take a moment this morning to share my appreciation for their service. I want to especially thank the New City Volunteer Ambulance Corps for hosting and Rockland Bakery for the generous donation of baked goods. Thank you!"

Lawmakers in Rockland County have unanimously approved an expansion of a law aimed at helping volunteer emergency responders and their families. The Jared Lloyd Act, named after the Spring Valley firefighter who died in a 2021 blaze at an assisted living facility, will now offer up to \$1 million in support to families of firefighters, EMS workers, auxiliary police and hazmat teams. The measure was passed to honor Lloyd's legacy and extend benefits to more first responders, and their surviving loved ones, according to officials.



S.W. Johnson has begun preparations to host the 2026 Rockland County Volunteer Firefighters Association Convention and Parade the weekend of October 2 & 3, 2026. This is in conjunction with our company's 150th Anniversary. Only 200 tickets will be sold. If all tickets are sold within 6 months, we will consider having a 2nd raffle!!! Checks can be mailed to: S.W. Johnson SUPER RAFFLE 37 Bridge St. Garnerville, NY 10923. Payment can also be paid via VENMO: Troy Spong, ZELLE: 845-721-7879 ***Please give 3 number choices and we will attempt to accommodate your choice - if not you will be given a random number!!!

Orange County Report

Submitted by: Dorothy Brown, HVVFA Director

Orange County Volunteer Fireman's Association held their Convention and Parade in September. It was great turnout and Congratulations to all who won trophies. At the convention the association gave a Unit Citation Award and was given to the following members:

Lt. Ryan Heard from Washingtonville
 Chief Shawn Graham from Slate Hill
 Lt. Harry Hunt from Chester FD
 Lt. Matt Pascullo from Chester FD
 Lt. John Jones from Goshen FD
 Firefighter Chris Donovan from Goshen FD
 Congratulations to all.

Also, the new officers for the association were elected. November 7, 2026 the OCVFA held their installation dinner at the Brotherhood Winery in Washingtonville. The following officers for 2026 were sworn in :

President Thomas Jynn
 1st Vice President Ryan Arciero
 4th Vice President Kim Lee
 Secretary Dorothy Brown
 Treasurer Kathleen Howell
 Financial Secretary Helena Grunwald
 Chaplain Bill Wilson
 Sergeant at Arms Joseph Federici
 Congratulations to all.

Orange County Volunteer Firemen's Association meeting nights for 2025/2026 are as follows:
 Dinner at 7pm and meeting starts at 7:30 pm
 November 25, 2025 – Monell Engine Co.
 Washingtonville FD

January 27, 2026- Mombasha FD- Life Member's Night

March 24, 2026- Campbell Hall FD

May 26, 2026- Maybrook-Past President Night

July 28, 2026- Cronomer Valley FD

September 24, 2026- Monell Engine Co -
 Washingtonville- Convention Meeting

November 24, 2026- Mechanicstown

The Fire Departments are getting ready for breakfast with Santa and other events. December 6, 2025 there will be the Christmas Parade in the evening in Washingtonville.

Happy Holidays and be safe.

Warren County Report

Submitted by: Jessica McKinney-Benjamin,

Hello Everyone! Happy Fall!

Warrensburg Fire Department held their annual 9/11 Memorial on September 11, 2025. This was a very well attended event, as always. If anyone is ever available to come to this event, it really is a beautiful service. Next year, for the 25 year anniversary they are honoring all veterans past and present. If anyone has any photos that they would like to be a part of their slideshow next year, please send them in.

Coming up, South Glens Falls Fire Company is holding their annual Holiday Parade on Sunday November 23rd with a change in step-off. The parade will now start at 5:00pm and be a nighttime parade.

The Village of Lake George will light up the night sky on Saturday November 29th. Join us for our annual Light up the Village event. There will be a large parade around 6:30pm. The parade will step off after the beautiful firework show.

Lake George Fire Department is underway with the planning of the 2026 June Convention! Things are going great and we are looking forward to this event. Please stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates! We would like to congratulate Chuck Larkin of Stony Point, NY and Brian Engle of Warrensburg, NY for having their logo submissions selected for the 2026 convention logo competition! If you have not seen it yet, the theme for this year is... "Happy Birthday America!! 250 Years of Independence!" We look forward to seeing all of your decorated floats and apparatus in the Mardi Gras parade!

Every time there is an article due, I send a message out to the Warren County Chief's and Officers Association to see if there is anything that they would like published in the newsletter.

Warren County Report Continued

The following article was sent to me from Chestertown Fire Company's Secretary, Jack Bartlett.

From the Desk of Chestertown Fire Company's Secretary Jack Bartlett; Chestertown, NY: When you work in Emergency Services or Health Care, have a family member that does, or are just a very observant person, you may look for an AED or Automatic External Defibrillator when entering a business. Unfortunately, that was a need that the members of the Chestertown Fire Department found lacking in our community at no fault to our Businesses. Fortunately, the organization stepped in and launched the "Community AED Program" which debuted in 2024. "Rising costs for businesses makes it hard to have 'extras' like an AED. We saw a need and as an organization, decided that this was a vacancy that we could help fill" said Jack Bartlett, an EMT and spokesman for the Fire Company. Through the generosity of members of the community who donate to the fire company, two AEDs and trained CPR Personnel have been placed in local Chestertown Businesses. In 2024, the first AED was placed at the Main Street Ice Cream Parlor, a popular Breakfast and Lunch Restaurant and Boutique store that operates year-round and serves a diverse clientele. "We approached Bruce and Helana Robbins (the owners of the restaurant) and they accepted the partnership with open arms. They took a CPR Course at our station and it was off to the races" said Bartlett. On Sunday, September 7th at the Fire Companies Open House, Fire Chief Daren Harvey announced that the department had chosen "The Loon (Formerly O.P. Fredericks) as the 2025 Recipient. Owner George Stannard and his family were present at the ceremony and accepted the AED. "About 20 minutes after the Open House had concluded, we had received a photo from George with the AED. It had already been hung in The Loon and ready to serve the public should the need arise" said Bartlett. The Community AED Program is made possible by the Generous Businesses and Community Members of the Chestertown Fire District. But, it is not all about AEDs when it comes to saving someone's life. The Fire Company has launched Community CPR Courses, in partnership with Warrensburg EMS, with the goal of training many community happy to

teach a class at any time. We have been blessed in recent years with growth to our EMS Providers and Instructors in this department. If you're business, organization, or even you are looking for a class, I encourage you to reach out to us at info@chestertownfiredept.com. The more people who have these skills, the safer our community will be" said Bartlett.

As always, stay tuned to local fire department social media websites for all of the information on upcoming events in the area! I hope everyone has a happy and healthy holiday

Albany County Report Submitted by: Butch Recchia, ACVP

The Albany County VFA held their Annual Dinner on Sept 17 at the Elsmere Fire House. Chief Tony Carrow of the Westmere Fire Dept. was honored at the meeting receiving the Walter W. Eck Jr. Firefighter of the Year Award for his many years of Service to the Westmere Fire Dept.

At this year's Albany County Inspection Day Slingerlands Fire Dept won the Walter w. Eck Sr Memorial Traveling Trophy for Best Overall. They also received awards for Best appearing antique, Tanker and Men's Color Guard. Other award winners included North Bethlehem, Best appearing Rescue, Guilderland Center, Best appearing Engine, New Salem for Best appearing Utility Unit and the New Salem Ladies Auxiliary for Best Appearing Ladies Color Guard.

On Oct 4 The Albany County Volunteer Fire Police Association held their Biennial Walter W. Eck Fire Police Seminar at the Fuller Road Fire House. The Seminar was well attend and attendees received many helpful Training Tips from the Speakers.

During October many Albany County Companies held their Old Timers night where they honor their long time members with 50 years or more of Service. Along with FASNY, Hudson Valley VFA, Hudson Mohawk VFA, Albany County VFA President Tom Cascone presented 50 year certificates to those that were honored.

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Albany County Report Continued

On Oct 27 the Albany County Volunteer Firefighters Burn Fund Committee presented a check to a Selkirk Woman 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. The ACVFA wishes everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season.

*Wishing You All a Happy,
Healthy and Safe Holiday
Season!*



*From The Officers, Directors, County
VP's and The HV Firefighter Staff!*

Schenectady County Report Submitted by: LuAnn Edele, HVVFA Director

As Past Chair of the County VP's, I'd like to send a huge thank you to our now retired County VP, Ken Askew, for the work he's done for the HVVFA as a County Vice-President. Ken, who is also Past President of VFPASNY, as well as was Director of the Royal Order of the Blue Vests, was HVVFA's representative for his home county, Schenectady. Ken has been a member of the Rotterdam Volunteer Fire Company for more than 50 years and has been very well respected throughout all the associations he has been a part of!



Speaking of Rotterdam Fire Co., they hosted their annual Open House on Saturday, October 18 at their 1400 Curry Rd location. From noon till 8:00 they had fire and rescue demos, games and food trucks. Speaking of trucks, they are proud owners of a new rescue, 1242!

Sadly, this summer, Ft. Hunter Fire Co. said goodbye to its Past Chief and Commissioner Edward "Ned" Weston, who answered his "last call". Chief Weston was a life member, who joined the Company in 1985. He was instrumental in restoring its antique apparatus E37. It is interesting to note that on Dec. 6, the Ft Hunter Fire Company will be hosting a fundraiser at the Guilderland Elks #2480 with Katie Manning-Hilton, renowned psychic medium. There's a Facebook event page for this event.

Schenectady County does not have a Fire Association but has numerous Fire Departments within its borders. This article mentions two of its volunteer services. I hope to be able to report again for this area in the next issue.

Till then, Happy Holidays!

**IF ANY COMPANY OR DEPARTMENT IS INTERESTED IN 100%
MEMBERSHIP IN THE HVVFA
PLEASE CONTACT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY
JACK DELANEY**



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