



SOUTHERN NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Inc.

Representing the Volunteer and Exempt Firemen of the Nine Southern Counties of
New York State Since 1896
Website www.snyvfa.org

Minutes of the March 28, 2026 General Membership Meeting – Hewlett FD

Meeting called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Frank Guarino.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Donald Bracciodieta.

Invocation led by V. Ammirati

Past President J. Batta welcomed us to Hewlett and thanked his kitchen committee for a job well done serving tonight's meal. President Guarino thanked our host for an excellent meal and their hospitality.

Roll Call of Officers taken, and excuses noted. Motion to accept by J. O'Brien and seconded by R. Ottaviano , excuses noted Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs, MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes of the January 3rd membership meeting in West Babylon were approved as mailed by J. Batta seconded by E. Schmidt. MOTION CARRIED.

Communications:

- By Law proposal was submitted by North Shore Fire council that will be turned over to the By Law Committee.

Motion by A. Walsh seconded by J. DeFronzo that communications take their regular course. MOTION CARRIED.

Treasurer Dahlen was excused from the meeting, so no bills were presented.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

President Frank Guarino:

- . President Frank Guarino:
 - Welcomed all to Hewlett and thanked the local committee for providing a great meal.
 - Attended several meetings since October and gave a brief report of any highlights.
- First Vice President Steven Klein
 - Excused from meeting.
- Second Vice President Robert Sutton:
 - Reported that he has received 2 applications for FFOTY, and has distributed the paperwork to the committee for review.

Treasurer Roy Dahlen was excused from the meeting, but submitted a written report showing a total balance of \$44,509.53. Motion by J. Batta, seconded by J. DaRocha to approve the report as read.
MOTION CARRIED.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

AUDIT:

- No Report.

BY LAWS:

- No report, but there was a submission made by the North Shore Fire Council for review.

BENEVOLENT & EXEMPT:

- No Report.

BUDGET:

- No Report.

BURN AWARENESS:

- No Report.

CONVENTION:

- R. McConville reported that the Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 2nd in Central Islip Fire Department. Memorial service to start at 5:00 pm with dinner to follow. Robert Celeste from the West Islip FD will be our guest speaker.

CREDENTIALS:

- T. Tripp reported that this evening;

Total Present: 52

Member/Delegates from Nassau: 38

Member/Delegates from Suffolk: 10

Member/Delegates from Westchester: 3

Member / Delegates from Rockland: 1

Member / Delegates from the City of New York Volunteers: 0

Members from Nassau: 0

Members from Suffolk: 0

Members from Westchester: 0

Members from NYC: 0

DINNER:

- K. McElynn reported that our annual dinner will be held on May 29th, 2026 with the cocktail hour beginning at 6:30 pm at the Bar Association in Mineola. As last year, the price will be \$85.00 per person. R. Ottaviano added that this is our only fundraiser for the year. Please ask your Departments / Companies to please consider taking an ad in the journal. We have the cheapest prices for ads.

EMS:

- No Report.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR:

- R. Sutton advised that the committee has 2 applications to review.

FIRE POLICE:

- J. Wicks reported;
 - Annual State seminar was held in Colonie last week & was a success.
 - Next state meeting is April 11th in Troy.
 - Annual convention will be held May 14-16, 2026 in Niagara Falls.,

FIRE PREVENTION:

- No Report.

MEMBERSHIP / FINANCIAL SECRETARY:

- R. McConville reported:
 - Dues notices for 2026 have all been mailed. Individual members notices totaled 227 for one year, with 121 returned to date, 53 for 2 years, 37 for 3 years with 0 being returned.
 - Department member dues notices totaled 133 for one year with 51 returned to date, 15 for two years with 2 returned to date, 13 for three years with 1 returned. For a total of 161 mailed and 54 returned to date.
 - 3 new members accepted this evening. – Jonathan Barnett, Scott Thebold, and Douglas Tyzes.

LAWS AND LEGISLATION:

- The Southern NY VFA Legislative Comm. has been closely monitoring the
- FASNY Legislative Scorecard on behalf of its membership and has also been actively
- supporting the FASNY Agenda including the newly introduced FASNY 14 point proposal
- for nominal compensation which includes the following proposals:
 - 1. Enhanced Volunteer firefighter/EMS Tax Credit - Amend Tax Law § 606 to:
 - a. increase the base tax credit to \$800;
 - b. allow for an additional graduated credit of up to \$7500 annually (or amount to be determined) for service on a duty-
 - crew shift of at least 4 hours in duration at a rate of \$50 per 4-hour shift, subject to certification by the authority having jurisdiction.
 - c. incentivize response and training; the more you volunteer, the larger the credit, with a focus on response and training as the incentive driver.
 - 2. Add a new provision in the General Municipal Law (new § 200-d) authorizing an Authority Having Jurisdiction or fire company to provide reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred, whether through gift cards, gas cards, or in an amount not to exceed the Federal IRS Form 1099 threshold and exempt such payment from State income tax.
 - 3. Childcare and family inclusion tax credit added to Tax Law § 606 for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel, providing up a tax credit of \$5000 to assist in childcare/daycare related expenses of volunteers, subject to certification by the authority having jurisdiction of the volunteer's active status for the tax year in which the credit is claimed.
 - 4. Volunteer First Responder Housing Affordability - exemption for volunteer first responders from Tax Law § 253, which calls for a State Mortgage Recording Tax. Full exemption for Volunteer Fire/EMS personnel on mortgage recording taxes for the purchase of a primary residence located within the State.

- 5. Volunteer First Responder Housing Affordability - Create option for a county/local exemption for county-imposed recording fees related to volunteer fire/EMS on purchases of real property located within the State.
- 6. Create an employer tax incentive for businesses to hire volunteer fire/EMS personnel contingent upon that employer allowing volunteer fire/EMS personnel to respond during business hours, and provide workplace protection for volunteer first responders akin to S4300, below.
 - a. See S4300 for exemplar language on workplace protection (S4300 would forbid employers from discriminating against or terminating an employee because he or she has responded to an emergency as a volunteer firefighter or ambulance worker).
- 7. Remove the “either/or” prohibition in Tax Law § 606 to allow a volunteer firefighter or volunteer EMS worker to obtain the real property tax exemption and the income tax credit, which incentivizes recruitment and recognizes both state and local options to incentivize volunteerism.
- 8. Grant volunteer fire and EMS workers equal workplace injury protection by bringing the benefits set forth in the Volunteer Firefighters’ Benefit Law and the Volunteer Ambulance Workers’ Benefit Law equal to those set forth in New York’s Workers’ Compensation Law.
- 9. Amend General Municipal Law § 200-aa to add “or Authority Having Jurisdiction” to the statute to allow the AHJ or a fire company to pay the local training stipend. Currently, a &fire company &; as defined by that statute is the only entity authorized to pay a local training stipend. Corresponding changes would also be required at 9 NYCRR § 215.
- 10. Amend Real Property Tax Law § 466-a to allow municipalities to opt in to grant an exemption from property taxes for volunteers up to 100% of such property taxes.
- 11. Create a new General Municipal Law § 217 (x) to award Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) points (up to 25) points at 1 point per duty shift of 4 hours to incentivize on-call duty shifts by volunteers.
- 12. In all local compensation-based proposals, create a state-funded reimbursement mechanism to assist fire departments in offering this incentive if the fire department budget is below the \$400,000 audit threshold set forth in General Municipal Law § 209-z.
- 13. Public service loan forgiveness and state tuition assistance for volunteer fire and EMS workers, with eligibility for such benefit certified by the authority having jurisdiction.
- 14. Add a new section to the General Municipal Law and Civil Service Law prohibiting any county, city, town, village, fire district, labor union and/or bargaining unit from imposing any restriction by contract disallowing firefighters from serving as a volunteer firefighter or EMS worker in their home community or purporting to subject firefighters to discipline on the basis of that firefighter’s service as a volunteer firefighter or EMS worker in their home community.

- Unfortunately, other statewide organizations who have only recently discovered the Recruitment and Retention issue have decided to push for a different program that they cannot illustrate as they have no final document with any type of wording to produce for anyone to consider. In the absence of a final and definitively written Bill or change to existing law it is the opinion of this Chair that the Southern NY VFA disavow any support for these proposals for “County Fire Service” and “Paid on Call” until such time as final bills are proposed and they are vetted by not only the FASNY Board and Legislative Comm., but by the entire FASNY Membership in a forum where they can be openly discussed, debated, and voted upon.
- Despite all this, the VFBL Benefit increase still remains this Committee’s priority at this time and is continuing to be pushed as our priority issue here in the nine Southern counties.
- We would also take this opportunity to note the passing of Michael Krummenacker, a long time source of information and sage advice to this Committee, his loss is truly one whose magnitude will be felt for years to come.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT:

- Kevin McElynn reported that he made several submissions for The Volunteer magazine, and the website has been updated recently, and he is working on more updates that should be posted soon. If anyone has anything either for the magazine or website, please contact him. Please use the kmcelynn@gmail.com email address. Also, the general membership minutes are available on the website for your reference. Please help us out with material for the magazine. Pictures, stories and news from all over the Sectional are welcome.

RESOLUTIONS:

- No Report.

SAFETY OFFICERS:

- No Report.

STEERING:

- No report.

WAYS & MEANS:

- M. DeVittorio mentioned that this organization MUST start looking at ways to raise funds. There are still outstanding expenses owed for the window at the Firemen’s Home and our treasury is going down. Money taken in from the annual dinner just covers the cost of the dinner. We need journal ads and other methods of raising funds for the Organization.

YOUTH FIREMATIC ORGANIZATIONS:

- R. McConville reported:
 - There were 125 juniors & 20+ advisors in attendance at our annual seminar held in Levittown in November. The speaker was Chief Robert Celeste from the West Islip Fire Department . In 2024, he was recognized and awarded as the Suffolk County Chief of the Year. Her was also appointed as a board member of the Suffolk County Vocational

and Educational Board in Yaphank. He was well received by the juniors and his interactive program was outstanding.

Motion by S. Klein and seconded by R. Murray to accept the committee reports, MOTION CARRIED.

FASNY OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Director Guarino:

- Announced that he is running for his 2nd 5-year term as a Director of FASNY.

Director Ottaviano:

- Thanked all members for your continued service.
- The rest of his report was covered earlier in the meeting.

FIREMEN'S HOME:

Trustee Ammariti:

- Current census is 82 members. We lost 3 members in the past month and 2 members this past week. 3 new members will be joining us soon.
- There are 7 membership applications in various stages of completion.
- The home staff had 1 employee who tested positive for Covid-19 last month and currently the home is flu free and Covid free.
- The next trustees meeting will be held May 7-9 at the home. There will be a memorial service on Friday May 8th at 7:00 pm in the FASNY home chapel.
- The trustees hosted a big bucks bingo Friday, March 20th and every member was victorious.
- Browns Brewing Company had their Chili cookoff in Troyon Sunday, March 22nd. A portion of the proceeds were donated to the home. Member Peter Scarinzi from Oceanside FD represented the home after his chili recipe was selected from six entries submitted during the FASNY home cook off in late February. Unfortunately, Peter did not win but a good time was had by all.
- There will be a residents car show on May 30th at the home with a rain date of May 31st.

Trustee Sutton echoed Trustee Ammirati's report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion to purchase 2 tickets to SCVA dinner made by R. Ottaviano and seconded by J. Batta. MOTION PASSED.
- Motion to purchase 2 golf tees for the Cancer Group outing made by T. Tripp, seconded by J. Batta. MOTION CARRIED.
- Motion from J. DiFronzo seconded by S. Goodman to set aside a page in these minutes in memory of M. Krummenacker. MOTION CARRIED.
- Motion by D. Holupka seconded by T. Tripp for this organization to send a letter to FASNY expressing our displeasure of the convention schedule regarding voting and the 21% forum. MOTION CARRIED.
- D Holupka reported that the next Benevolent Association will be held in Sayville on April 17th.

GOOD AND WELFARE:

- A moment of silence was held in honor of FASNY Director Michael Krummenacker.
- Nassau County will be nominating Juan Batta in place of M. Krummenacker.
- J. O'Brien from the Hicksville Fire Dept. thanked the association for their support in the sudden loss of M. Krummenacker.
- J. Owenburg reported that Long Island Day at the home is scheduled on September 20th.

Next General Meeting will be on March 28, 2026 in Hewlett. The next Board meeting will be on February 25th at Baldwin FD Headquarters.

J. Wicks lead us in the closing prayer.

Motion for adjournment made by J. Interdonati and seconded by D. Bracciodieta at 9:00 p.m., MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted By.

Kevin P. McElynn

Kevin P. McElynn
Secretary

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1st Vice President

ROBERT SUTTON
2ND Vice President

KEVIN MCELYNN
Secretary

ROY DAHLEN
Treasurer

ROBERT McCONVILLE
Financial Secretary

**THE 129TH DINNER
& FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR CEREMONY**
And Ladies Auxiliary Annual Dinner will be held on
Friday May 29, 2026
At
THE NASSAU COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
15th & West Street – Mineola, NY
6:30 pm

Tickets - \$85.00 Per Person
Dinner Choices: Filet Mignon, Chicken Cordon Bleu or Salmon

Enclosed are 5 Raffles - \$5.00 Each
Please forward all sold raffles to Kevin McElynn
Please make checks payable to S.N.Y.V.F.A.

Please purchase your tickets no later than May 11, 2025
Dinner Tickets will not be mailed

Kevin McElynn
So. N.Y. Firefighters Association – Dinner Committee
1600 Grand Ave. #M3 – Baldwin, NY 11510
Tel: 516-492-8860

***Remember; The Journal Ads and
raffles are the one and only fund raisers
for the Southern N.Y. Volunteer
Firefighters Association***

Please accept my reservations for: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

_____ Reservations at \$85.00 per person. I enclose \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Signature: _____

Organization: _____

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Dear Friend of Southern N.Y. Firefighters Association:

We cordially invite you to participate in our journal program to help us offset the cost of our Annual Dinner. We will be distributing these programs to all the Fire Departments and members within the Southern New York region and also to our advertisers. The cost of participating in our journal will be as follows:

_____ FULL PAGE \$100 _____ HALF PAGE \$75.00
_____ QUARTER PAGE \$50.00

Name of Organization or Business: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: () _____

Contact Name: _____

Please make checks payable to **S.N.Y.V.F.A.** All advertisements MUST be received by
1, 2025

May

Please forward all ads and checks to:

**Kevin McElynn
1600 Grand Avenue
Apartment M3
Baldwin, New York 11510**

You may attach artwork or email it to kmcelynn@gmail.com .Artwork must be in either Word, pdf, or jpeg format to be printed.

Remember: The journal ads and raffles are the one and only fundraiser for the Southern New York Volunteer Firefighters Association.

THANK YOU – The Dinner Committee