

**NASSAU COUNTY FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**BALDWIN FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**MAY 17, 2023**

President Leon Tucholski called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. Salute to the Flag was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Fred Robinson. President Tucholski asked for a moment of silence in honor of those members who have passed as well as our service men and women serving either overseas or at home, which was followed by the opening prayer given by Father Chris Costigan.

The Association was welcomed to Baldwin Fire Department by Chief of Department Bill Dworsak. President Tucholski thanked him and those who helped out with tonight's meal for hosting our meeting tonight.

Roll Call of the Officers, Past Presidents, Directors, and Committee Chairs was taken, and excuses noted. Motion made by Joseph Difonzo, seconded by Past President Steve Klein, and carried to accept the Roll Call of Officers with the excuses noted.

Motion by Past President Klein seconded by Joseph Difonzo, and carried to accept the minutes of the January meeting as printed in the Chief's Signal.

**COMMITTEES:**

**Awards:** First Vice President Kevin McElynn gave the following report:

1. We have 2 Firematic awards this year to be presented at the dinner.
2. The awards committee will have to meet following the Re-Org meeting to review documents and look at new ideas for this committee.
3. There is no award for EMS this year.

**Burn Center:** First Vice President McElynn asked if there was any update on the status of the Burn Center at NUMC, which started a lengthy discussion on this topic.

**Dinner:** Past President Richard Messina reported that the 2023 Installation Dinner will be at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville on **TUESDAY** June 6<sup>th</sup>, with the cocktail hour starting at 6:30 PM – tickets are \$80 per person. Please consider taking a journal ad. First Vice President McElynn also added that he is still accepting ads for the journal, but he is going to the printer on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, so he must have the artwork for the ad by then – he can wait on the check.

**EMS:** John Scalesi gave the following report:

1. Spoke about the use of Whip-its, which is the carbon dioxide capsules that the kids are using.
2. There are 8 LODD names being placed on the Memorial Wall in Albany on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Executive Council:** Financial Secretary Tony Tripp reported that the next meeting is scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Albertson Fire Company.

**Exempts:** President Tucholski reported that the FASNY 2% Tax Forum will be held on Thursday August 11<sup>th</sup> during the FASNY Convention in Niagara Falls. Questions were asked if the forum will be available to be streamed that day and President Tucholski reported that he is working on that.

**Explorers/Junior Firefighters:** Jerry Presta gave the following report:

1. Our last meeting was on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Garden City Park Fire Department. There were 147 juniors present. Three-star retired FDNY Chief James Daly spoke about his journey from a junior firefighter in the Farmingdale Fire Department to a FDNY Chief.
2. We held a food drive for the Nassau County veteran's food pantry and will be delivering it in the coming week.
3. We had another extended training session on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the FSA. There were 33 Juniors present to take part in 2 evolutions. One squad took extinguishers while the other was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the tower knocking down a room fire. We had such a positive feedback on the tower, we spoke to Chief Hughes and Chief Wilders and we are adding it to the curriculum of the camp. Just in case you were not able to make to this past one, we are having another training session in the fall.
4. All applications have been sent out for Camp Fahrenheit 516 taking place July 24<sup>th</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the FSA. Please get all applications back to the training committee ASAP.
5. The Hempstead Fire Department has started a Junior Firefighter program and they will be joining the NCJFA.
6. Junior groups in Nassau County have received many awards for 2023. Syosset Advisor Roshan Mathai received the FASNY Mentor of the Year, Junior Firefighter and current NCJFA President Kyra Kozy of Syosset Fire Department Juniors won the NVFC Junior Firefighter of the Year, and the East Norwich Junior Fire Department won both the FASNY and NVFC Junior Youth Group of the Year.
7. Our next meeting will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Hicksville Fire Department Station 3, which is our Annual BBQ lunch meeting at 11:00 AM – all are welcome.

**Fire Police:** John Wicks gave the following report:

1. The next scheduled meeting of the Nassau County Volunteer Fire Police Association is May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Glen Cove Fire Department starting at 1:00 PM. The meeting following this one will be held at the Syosset Fire Department on July 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. The New York State Association of Fire Police's Annual Convention was held last week up in Niagara Falls.

**Legislative:** John Wicks gave the following report:

1. On May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, FASNY had their Lobby Day in Albany.
  - A. They were well received by the State Senate.
  - B. They will be working on the Tax Credit as well as parity with the workers comp with the paid firefighters and a peer support network.
2. FASNY will be lobbying at the Congressional Fire Services Institute weekend for making LOSAP tax free.

Junior Past President Mike Krummenacker reported that FASNY is also looking at trying to get credit for Civil Service based on years of service in the fire service. He also reported that Governor Hochul wanted to have firefighters paid by call for the volunteer firefighters, but that didn't pass in the state budget.

**Nassau Day at the Home:** Jose DaRocha gave the following report:

1. The date is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>.
2. The committee is looking for bands to play for the residents of the Home that day.
3. There will be games for the juniors.
4. There will be a bus leaving from the Albertson Fire Company - \$10 per person.

**Nominations:** Past President Messina gave the following report:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Kevin McElynn – Baldwin Fire Department</b>
<b>First Vice President:</b>	<b>Edmund Schmidt – Farmingdale Fire Department</b>
<b>Second Vice President:</b>	<b>Fred Robinson – Oceanside Fire Department</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Juan Batta – Hewlett Fire Department</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Stephen Goodman – Great Nick Vigilant Fire Company</b>
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	<b>Tony Tripp – Glen Cove Fire Department</b>

All offices are unopposed.

**Scholarship:** Financial Secretary Tony Tripp reported that we have received no applications as of today – we give our two of them for \$300 each – deadline for the applications are September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**State Chiefs:** Financial Secretary Tripp reported that the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Convention is scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse – if you are planning to attend, get your rooms soon.

**United Memorial:** President Tucholski gave the following report:

1. The event was held on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> at the Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church in Port Washington, which was well attended with 549 attendees.
2. The 2024 United Memorial will be held on May 5, 2024 at the Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Valley Stream, hosted by the Valley Stream Fire Department.

**Motion made to accept reports of all committees was made by Past President Messina, seconded by Peter Wass, and carried.**

## **REPORT OF DELEGATES:**

**FASNY:**

**Director Jose DaRocha:** had no report..

**Director Mike Krummenacker:** reported that the FASNY Convention will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> in Niagara Falls. You can walk across the bridge to Canada, but you must have an enhanced NYS Driver License or your US Passport.

**Home Trustee James Interdonati:** was not in attendance for this meeting.

**Home Trustee Walter Frame:** gave the following report:

1. As of this date, none of the residents have contracted COVID.
2. The ball fields are up and running,
3. There are 85 residents of the Home – close to capacity.
4. A member of the Floral Park Fire Department recently celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.
5. The wife of former Home Trustee Alan Way, Mary, was sent home a lot better than when she was admitted.
6. Please come up for Nassau Day.

**Southern NY Volunteer Firemen's Association:**

**President Robert Ottaviano:** was excused for this meeting.

**First Vice President Juan Batta:** gave the following report:

1. The next meeting of the Association, which will be the Annual Meeting, will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Hewlett Fire Department. It will begin with the Memorial Service at 4:00 PM. A legislative clearinghouse at 5:00 PM, dinner will be served at 6:00 PM, followed by the meeting.
2. The dinner will be held on Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Leonard's Palazzo in Great Neck, located at 555 Northern Blvd – tickets are \$80 per person. We are also selling Raffle Tickets and Journal ads – please be generous as this is our only fundraiser for the year.
3. The Association is in discussions of moving the Legislative Conference from April to January – more info to follow.

**Secretary Kevin McElynn:** had no report.

**Reading of the Communications:** Secretary Batta reported that there were no communications received for this meeting.

**Reading of the Bills:** Secretary Batta reported that he received no bills from Treasurer Stephen Goodman to be read for tonight's meeting.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

### **Nominations and Elections of Officers:**

The following names were read by the Nominating Committee earlier this meeting:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Kevin McElynn – Baldwin Fire Department</b>
<b>First Vice President:</b>	<b>Edmund Schmidt – Farmingdale Fire Department</b>
<b>Second Vice President:</b>	<b>Fred Robinson – Oceanside Fire Department</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Juan Batta – Hewlett Fire Department</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Stephen Goodman – Great Nick Vigilant Fire Company</b>
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	<b>Tony Tripp – Glen Cove Fire Department</b>

Motion made by Past President Messina, seconded by Past President Walter Frame, and carried to have the Secretary cast one affirmative ballot for each unopposed officer. The officers were then sworn in by Past Chief Thomas Fitzsimmons of the Baldwin Fire Department along with John Wicks who was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms by President Kevin McElynn. Junior Past President Tucholski thanked all the Committees and Officers for all their help and hard work these past two years. He then received a standing ovation from the members in attendance at the meeting.

### **New Business:**

1. Carl Thuge congratulated the newly elected officers, spoke about his career in the fire service, and reported that he recently celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. He received a standing ovation from those in attendance at the meeting.
2. Sergeant-at-Arms John Wicks reported that the Westbury Fire Department will be hosting a Texas Holding Tournament on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Report of Officers**

**Junior Past President:** Junior Past President Leon Tucholski gave the following reported that he attended the following:

1. The Southern NY Volunteer Firemen's Association's Legislative Conference at the Albertson Fire Company.
2. The United Memorial Service in Port Washington.
3. The Roslyn Highlands Fire Company's Annual Installation Dinner at the Old Westbury Country Club.
4. Presented 50-Year Certificates at the Freeport Fire Department's Installation Dinner at the Huntington Hilton in Melville.

**President:** President Kevin McElynn gave the following report:

1. Thank you for your support. Looking forward to continuing working together.
2. Thanks again to Junior Past President Tucholski for his leadership these past 2 years.
3. I have many goals for the Association to move forward.
4. Increase membership – we need new faces on committees.
5. There are committee sign-up list on the tables. I have received a few, but if you would like to be on a committee, please fill out one tonight. We will be reviewing committees at our Re-Org meeting.
6. Does anyone have any information on the County Parade? See him.
7. Thanks for the excellent job at the Memorial Service – Port Washington did an excellent job. Numbers were down this year.
8. Congratulations to the newly elected officers – looking forward to working with all of you.
9. There are containers available if you want to take home food.
10. Thank you to the Commissioners, Chiefs, and members for hosting tonight's meeting and to my Company for their work in set-up and clean-up.
11. Please stay safe.

**First Vice President:** First Vice President Edmund Schmidt gave the following report:

1. Looking forward to the 2023-2024 year.
2. Thanked Junior Past President Tucholski for all his hard work these past 2 years.

**Second Vice President:** Second Vice President Fred Robinson gave the following report:

1. Congratulations to President McElynn and First Vice President Schmidt on their election.
2. Thanked Junior Past President Tucholski for all his hard work these past 2 years.
3. Congratulations to Secretary Batta on his upcoming election to President of the Southern NY Volunteer Firefighter's Association.
4. There are 42 members in attendance.
5. Collected \$210 for the Dark Horse with \$105 for the Association and 5 - \$20 gift prizes along with the other prizes and \$195 collected for the 50/50 with \$95 going to the winner.

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Sergeant-at-Arms John Wicks thanked President McElynn on his appointment.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Stephen Goodman was excused for this meeting.

**Secretary:** Secretary Juan Batta gave the following reported:

1. Congratulations to President McElynn, First Vice President Schmidt, and Second Vice President Robinson on their elections to their offices.
2. Congratulations to Junior Past President Tucholski on a job well done these past 2 years.

**Financial Secretary:** Financial Secretary Tony Tripp gave the following report:

This month I have turned over to the Treasury the sum of \$120 in dues. Of the 518 members, 340 have paid their dues for a total of \$6,015.

Dues bills have been mailed out for the current year.

There are 29 out of 101 Departments and Companies that owe dues for the year beginning May 1, 2022. All Member, Department. And Company dues notices for the 2023-2024 year will be mailed out.

If you are a delegate for a Department or Company, you still have to pay dues. That designation is only for voting purposes.

Status of the Membership:

Dues paying members:	518
Dept/Co members	<u>101</u>
Total Membership	619

Members not paid:	178
Dept/Co not paid:	29

**Motion made by Past President Messina, seconded by Past President Otto Kohlmier, Jr., and carried to accept the reports of the Officers.**

**Good & Welfare:**

1. President McElynn presented Junior Past President Tucholski with his 50-Year of Service Certificate.
2. Oceanside Fire Department is selling a raffle for a scholarship.
3. Jose DaRocha introduced Reserve US Army Lieutenant Abdelmohsen Mossollem from the Albertson Fire Company.

**Dark Horse & 50/50:** Prizes were raffled off.

**Closing Prayer** was given by Father Christopher Costigan.

**Motion for Adjournment** was made by Past President Mike Krummenacker, seconded by Past President Kohlmier, and carried. **TIME: 9:10 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Juan Batta, Secretary