

**NASSAU COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**GLEN COVE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**OCTOBER 18, 2023**

President Kevin McElynn called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. Salute to the Flag was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Jon Wicks. President McElynn 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 and those affected by the war in Israel, which was followed by the opening prayer given by Sergeant-at-Arms Wicks.

The Association was welcomed to Glen Cove Fire Department by Chief of Department Robert Retoske. President McElynn 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 Past President Richard Messina, seconded by Past President Walter Frame, and carried to accept the Roll Call of Officers with the excuses noted.

Motion by Past President Frame seconded by Past President Messina, and carried to accept the minutes of the July meeting as posted to our website.

President McElynn introduced Barbara Niemczyk, President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Nassau County Firefighter's Association who introduced the members of her Executive Board who were in attendance for this meeting: First Vice President Terry Occhipinti, Recording Secretary BJ Gilmor, Financial Secretary Ginny Marshall, Treasurer Barbara Stone, and 2-Year Trustee Ruth Ivarson. President Niemczyk then invited the Association's Board of Directors to their Annual Birthday Dinner held on June 24, 2024 at North Bellmore FD Company 2.

President McElynn then introduced Kyra Kozey, President of the Nassau County Junior Firefighter's Association who introduced the members of her Executive Board who were in attendance for tonight's meeting: First Vice President Jia Walia, Second Vice President Khadeejah Memon, Secretary Samara Mehta, Treasurer Audrey Sasso, and Sergeant-at-Arms Sofia Pierno.

President McElynn then introduced FASNY Director Frank Guarino.

## COMMITTEES:

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

The awards committee has met and have gotten together and are in the process of reviewing the updated documents. Once we have Board approval, they will go into effect. In the meantime, the current procedures are still in place. He also reported that the cut-off date for submissions is March 1, 2024 – which will allow us to vote on them and submit them to Southern NYVFA and FASNY.

**Burn Center:** Past President Thomas Gaffney gave the following report:

Members of the Board of Directors of the Burn Center Foundation met with Deputy County Executives Arthur Walsh and Tatum Fox on August 1<sup>st</sup>, in connection with the staffing shortages in the Burn Center and the underlying financial issues at the Hospital. We were advised that a significant part of the problem is that the State has cut its funding to NUMC from its 2020 level by \$91,698,410.00 in 2021; \$78,674,486.00 in 2022; and a projected \$97,274,486.00 in 2023. No explanation for these cuts were given.

There are two other public hospitals in New York State, in Erie and Westchester Counties. Deputy County Executives Walsh and Fox were unable to say if they have received similar cuts.

We are reaching out to the various State Senators whose districts cover any part of Nassau County. I have already spoken with State Senators Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick and Jack Martins. Once we have had contact with State Senators Kevin Thomas, Alexis Weik and Steven Rhoads, we will then need to figure out how to bring pressure on Albany and on Mineola to deal with this issue.

**Dinner:** Past President Messina reported that since there are no changes in the officers this year, we will not be having an installation dinner this year and will have a dinner in 2025. We will give out any awards, if any, at the annual meeting in May 2024 and we will have a journal for this year for that meeting.

**Executive Council:** First Vice President Edmund Schmidt reported that the next meeting of the Executive Council will be on November 9<sup>th</sup> in Albertson – the date was changed due to Thanksgiving.

**Exempts:** Junior Past President Leon Tucholski gave the following report:

The 2% Tax Forum will possibly be held on August 9<sup>th</sup> at the Niagara Falls Convention Center as part of the FASNY Convention. More details to follow when the FASNY Convention schedule is finalized.

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

1. Our last meeting was on September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Elmont FD. The Young Marines were the speakers and they spoke about leadership. There were 172 Juniors in attendance.
2. During the week of July 24<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Camp Fahrenheit 516 was held at the FSA. There were 45 campers from 26 Departments, including 2 from Suffolk and 1 from Queens. This year, the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the tower was brought into the curriculum. Graduation was held at the Plainview FD Headquarters on Friday July 28<sup>th</sup>. A great time was had by all.
3. The County Officers participated in two opening ceremonies. On July 17<sup>th</sup>, we opened the Mets game. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, we did the Pledge of Allegiance for the 9/11 ceremony for the Town of North Hempstead.
4. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 136 Juniors participated in LI Day at the FASNY Home. A great time was had by all followed by a great BBQ lunch.
5. The FASNY Museum of Firefighting now has a display of the Association with its history and all the activities including the camp and the all-female Board swearing in. We have also been asked to work on some junior projects and ideas with them.
6. The NCJFA App is coming along and is hoping to be released at one of our meetings next year. The target date is January 7<sup>th</sup> or April 21<sup>st</sup> meetings. More information will follow.
7. We had our One-day Specialty Training on October 1<sup>st</sup> at the FSA. Basement Fires and Flash Over Simulators were experienced. We had 33 Juniors with 2 from Suffolk in attendance. FSA Day is this coming Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> – all are welcome to attend with no minimum age or limit on participants.
8. The Board of Directors will be attending a meeting at the Smithtown FD on Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 PM where we will give a presentation on Starting an Association and answer any questions they may have.
9. The NCJFA is now on Tik Tok, yes you heard it right Tik Tok. The account name is Nassau.juniors. Follow us and see what is going on, there are videos from our training last week. More details to follow.
10. We are officially booked for our 2024 Exchange trip from August 16<sup>th</sup> to August 24<sup>th</sup>. We are now taking reservations. Emails will be going out this week. More details to follow.
11. Our next meeting is on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at Hewlett FD. The speaker will be provided by Southern NY. Details to follow. All are welcome.

**Fire Police:** Sergeant-at-Arms Wicks gave the following report:

1. The Nassau County Fire Service Academy will now be offering a Four (4) Hour Fire Police Refresher course, which is mandatory in NYS. The first course will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Westbury FD Headquarters starting at 9:00 AM. Class size must be a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 40, we received permission to go up to 50 which we

have obtained and the course is closed, Please notify myself or Nassau County Volunteer Fire Police Association First Vice President if you would like to be on a waiting list in case of cancellations. We will try for another refresher course in the beginning of 2024.

2. The next meeting of the Nassau County Volunteer Fire Police Association will be on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Bayville FD. It will be our Memorial Service and elections, food at 1:00 PM, Memorial Service and meeting to follow.
3. ON Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>, the Volunteer Fire Police Association of the State of New York held its Fall Meeting at the Hagerman FD. It was well attended with 100 attendees, and all went well. If anyone would like to join the NCFPA and go to meetings and events, see me for an application.

First Vice President Schmidt reported that the NCVFPA Installation Dinner will be on January 28<sup>th</sup> at Verdi's Restaurant in Westbury. More details to follow.

**Health and Wellness:** Mary Jo Stuparich was excused for the meeting, so President McEllynn distributed the following report, which she emailed to the Association:

We are happy to have this committee formed as it is very important to educate everyone on personal health and wellness both physical and mental – we take care of so many people in our communities, but we also need to take care of ourselves and each other to be able to continue doing what we love as volunteers – that being said....we are entering into cold and flu season here are some tips to help boost your immune system as recommended by the CDC:

1. **Eating Well:** Eating well means emphasizing plenty of fruits and vegetables, lean protein, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products, also means limiting saturated fats, cholesterol, salt, and added sugars – be sure to consult your personal physician if you are going to take supplements – as too many vitamins and minerals can do more harm than good.
2. **Be Physically Active:** Regular physical activity helps you feel better, sleep better, and reduce anxiety. Combined with eating well, physical activity can help a person maintain a healthy weight.
3. **Maintain Healthy Weight:** Excess weight can affect how your body functions. Safe ways to help you maintain a healthy weight include reducing stress, eating healthy foods, getting enough sleep, and engaging in regular physical activity.
4. **Get Enough Sleep:** Scientific evidence is building that sleep loss can negatively affect different parts of the immune system. This can lead to the development of a wide variety of disorders. The recommended hours of sleep for first responders age ranges are as follows:

<b>18 – 60 Years of Age</b>	<b>7 of more hours per night</b>
<b>61 – 64 Years of Age</b>	<b>7 – 9 hours per night</b>
<b>65 Years of Age and Older</b>	<b>7 – 8 hours per night</b>

5. **Quit Smoking:** Smoking can make the body less successful at fighting disease. Smoking increases the risk for immune system problems, including rheumatoid arthritis.
6. **Avoid Too Much Alcohol:** Over time, excessive alcohol use can weaken the immune system.

More about all this information can be found on the CDC's website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the committee. If you have any topics that you would like more information about, please let us know!!

**Legislative:** Past President Mike Krummenacker reported that NYS passed enhanced cancer coverage and Parkinson's coverage for paid firefighters, but not for volunteers. He also reported that FASNY will be trying to get parity between workers comp and VFBL – workers comp pays out \$1150 per week while VFBL pays out \$650 per week. He will have more to report under his FASNY report.

**Meeting Sites:** President McElynn announced that the next membership meeting will be held on Wednesday January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Office in Bethpage – the address will be posted on our website and that our Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Bellmore FD.

**Muster:** Peter Glavas reported that the committee is making progress and has met four times and that they plan on meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month. He added some names to the committee. More details to follow.

**Nassau Day at the Home:** Jose DaRocha thanked the Juniors who came to the Home that day, the Ladies Auxiliary for their help setting up the day, and Past President Messina for taking attendance that day. He also reported that the only down part of that day was that there were not more firefighters in attendance that day – we need to spread the word to try to get more firefighters to show up that day.

**Scholarship:** Financial Secretary Tony Tripp reported that we only received 1 application for the scholarship, so the committee awarded it to Kayla Mulchanski from Roslyn Highlands FD.

**State Chiefs:** Financial Secretary gave the following report:

1. He attended a funeral in Troy for a Chief who died from cancer – please be vigilant for any signs and get checked.
2. He attended the NYS Fallen Firefighters Ceremony in Albany on October 10<sup>th</sup> – 2 names were added from the 1870's.

3. There have been 343 deaths from 9/11 illnesses, which equals the number of firefighters murdered that day.
4. The NYS Chiefs Convention will be in June – see the NYS Chiefs website for more information.
5. The NYS Chiefs will be sponsoring the Buff Show at the Nassau Coliseum on February 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>.

**United Memorial:** Junior Past President Tucholski reported that the 2024 United Memorial will take place on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Valley Stream. He also reported that we have no host for the 2025 Memorial and beyond – if your Department/Company is interested, please notify the committee.

**Website:** President McElynn reported that the website is up to date.

Motion made by Past President James Interdonati, seconded by Past President Gaffney, and carried to accept the reports of committees.

## **REPORT OF DELEGATES**

**FASNY:**

**DIRECTOR JOSE DaROCHA:** had no report.

**DIRECTOR MIKE KRUMMENACKER:** gave the following report:

1. FASNY Legislative Conference will take place on November 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, NY. As per the NYS Comptroller, you can use 2% monies to send people to the Conference – hope to see you there!
2. Southern NY Legislative Conference will be held on Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> in Albertson. Note the date change.

**HOME TRUSTEE JAMES INTERDONATI:** reported that the Testimonial Dinner for out-going Home Trustee Jerry Owenberg will be held on Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> at Central Islip FD – 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM – tickets are \$40 per person.

**SOUTHERN NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION:**

**PRESIDENT JUAN BATTA:** gave the following report:

1. The next general membership meeting will be on Saturday January 6<sup>th</sup> at the West Babylon FD – dinner at 7:00 PM with the meeting starting at 8:00 PM.
2. The Legislative Session will be on Saturday January 20<sup>th</sup> with refreshments at 8:00 AM with the session starting at 9:00 AM.

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT STEVE KLEIN:** was excused for this meeting.

**SECRETARY KEVIN McELLYNN:** had no report.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

### **RECEIVED:**

1. An invitation from the Nassau Day at the Home Committee for the President to attend the ceremony on Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>.
2. An invitation from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Nassau County Firefighter's Association for the President to attend their Installation Dinner on Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:00 PM at knights of Columbus, 2153A Jackson Ave, Seaford along with 2 tickets – additional tickets are \$65 per person.
3. An endorsement letter for Mike Caron for FASNY Second Vice President from the North Central New York Volunteer Firemen's Association.
4. An endorsement letter for Ken Holmes, Sr. for FASNY Second Vice President from the Central New York Volunteer Firemen's Association.

### **SENT:**

1. Letter to the Executive Council of Firematic Associations of Nassau County endorsing Mike Krummenacker for the position of Fourth Vice President.
2. A full-page journal ad in the Suffolk County Firemen's Association's Installation Journal.
3. A full-page journal ad in the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Educational Center's Annual Gals's Journal.
4. A letter to the Glen Cove FD for hosting tonight's meeting.

Motion made by Past President Frame, seconded by Ken Noone, and carried to accept the above communications and dispense as usual.

## **BILLS:**

Leon Tucholski	50-Year Certificate	\$50.00
TAPS	Bibles for Memorial Services	\$130.32
Kevin McElynn	Postage	\$66.00
Craig Yanantuono	Website – Setup & Hosting	\$1,450.00
Nassau County Junior Firefighters Association	Annual Support	\$500.00
Fire-EMS Safety Officers Association of NYS	Raffle Tickets	\$100.00
Roy Dahlen	2 Gift Cards for FASNY Scholarship Raffle	\$100.00
Nassau County Convention Committee	FASNY Hospitality Room	\$1,000.00
Suffolk County Firemen's Association	Full Page Ad in Installation Journal	\$100.00

Stephen Goodman	Change of Address Stamp	\$24.70
Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Educational Center	Deputy Chief Sponsorship at the Annual Gala	\$2,500.00
Leon Tucholski	2 50-Year Certificates	<u>\$400.00</u>
	<b>Total Bills</b>	<b>\$6,031.02</b>

Motion made by Paul Lottes, seconded by Past President James Interdonati, and carried to pay the bills.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Donald Holupka announced that the next meeting of the Long Island Association of Firefighters Benevolent and Exempts Association will be held on Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> at Selden FD with dinner being served at 7:00 PM.
2. Don McMahon thanked the Association for allowing him to attend the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Education Center's Gala.
3. Past President Otto Kohlmier, Jr. wished Past President Messina a Happy Birthday on Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>.
4. First Vice President Schmidt reported that he is now President of the Executive Council of Firematic Associations of Nassau County.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

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

1. My goal is to try to increase membership in the Association – we need some younger members.
2. Thanks to all who attended LI Day at the Home (Nassau Day), especially the Juniors – looking for a better turnout from the adults for next year – the residents really look forward to seeing us! Please come out and support the brothers & sisters in the Home.
3. Thanks to the turnout at the County Parade – congratulations to the Oceanside FD on their first-place win and thank you to the Rockville Centre FD for hosting it.
4. As you have noticed, we will not be going committee by committee for reports, if you have any committee reports, let us know – written reports are appreciated.
5. Secretary Juan Batta and I have been attending Suffolk County Firefighters Association meetings twice so far this year and I have extended their Officers an invitation to attend our membership meetings.
6. Thanks to all who attended the FASNY Convention in Niagara Falls in August. We will be there again in August as well.
7. The FASNY Legislative weekend is coming up on November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> in Troy – would like to see a good turnout there.



8. There will be a speaker at the January meeting to discuss the new Safe Haven Legislation that was passed into law.
9. Remember, election day is quickly approaching. Please get out and vote, and when you do, please wear some sort of FD apparel to show that firefighters do care and vote.
10. We will be starting a new committee to work on fundraising for the Association. Inflation has taken a hit on our budget, and we need to think of ways to bring funding in. The budget committee is looking at ways we can adjust our spending. Much more to follow.
11. Please check out our new website [www.ncfany.org](http://www.ncfany.org). We are still updating information on a regular basis. If you have any historical pictures you would like to share, please let us know. You will get them back. If your Department/Company is hosting an event, we can post it for you on the events page.

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:** First Vice President Edmund Schmidt thanked the Ladies Auxiliary of the Nassau County Firefighter's Association and the Nassau County Junior Firefighters Association for attending the meeting. Please get home safe.

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:** Second Vice President Fred Robinson was excused for this meeting.

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:** Sergeant-at-Arms Jon Wicks reported that 49 people signed in for the meeting.

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

**SECRETARY:** Secretary Juan Batta thanked everyone for their written reports.

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

This month I have turned over to the Treasurer the sum of \$220.00 in dues. Of the 515 members, 10 have paid their dues this year for a total of \$265.00.

Dues bills will be mailed out in November.

There are 26 out of the 101 Departments and Companies that owe dues for the year beginning May 1, 2022. All Member, Department and Company dues notices for 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	515
Dept/Co members	<u>101</u>
Total Membership	616

Members not paid	505
Dept/Co not paid	101

Motion made by Peter Waas, seconded by Past President Frame, and carried to accept the reports of the Officers.

### **GOOD & WELFARE:**

1. Ruth Iverson spoke about the AEMT Children of Hope website – it lists what you should do if a baby is delivered to your firehouse (you bring the baby to the hospital and call the police).
2. Don Holupka congratulated Past President Krummenacker on his 50 years of service to the Hicksville FD. Past President Krummenacker then received an ovation from those in attendance.
3. Past President Krummenacker suggested that with the war in Israel, we should be vigilant. Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School had to be evacuated today as well as some schools in Suffolk because of threats.
4. Sergeant-at-Arms Wicks reported that himself and some juniors from his Department stopped at a restaurant on the way home from LI Day at the Home and a patron of the restaurant at that time were so impressed with the way that those Juniors conducted themselves, that the patron picked up the tab at that restaurant.
5. Gary Wargo reported that the Fourth Battalion is having a fundraiser for the Burn Center on Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Vulcan Engine Company 2 located on Denton Ave. from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

### **DARK HORSE & 50/50:**

**Dark Horse:** collected \$220 total – 2 prizes and 6 \$10 prizes were raffled off.

**50/50:** \$210 collected total - \$105 was raffled off.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** was given by Sergeant-at-Arms Wicks.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:** made by Peter Waas, seconded by Thomas Underhill, and carried.

**TIME: 9:23 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Juan Batta, Secretary