

**NASSAU COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**NASSAU COUNTY OEM OFFICES IN BETHPAGE**  
**JANUARY 17, 2024**

President Kevin McElynn called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. Salute to the Flag was led by Donald Holupka. 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, which was followed by the opening prayer given by Father Christopher Costigan.

President McElynn thanked the Nassau County OEM for allowing us to have our meeting here tonight and as such, we are hosting the meeting.

Roll Call of the Officers, Past Presidents, Directors, and Committee Chairs was taken, and excuses noted. Motion made by Past President James Interdonati, seconded by Paul Yura, and carried to accept the Roll Call of Officers with the excuses noted.

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

**SEATING OF NEW DELEGATES:** President McElynn asked if there were any new delegates to the Association in attendance at this meeting to please stand up and introduce yourselves. The following new delegates were recognized: Connor Chestwick from the East Meadow FD and Marco Bilato from the Bellmore FD.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS FROM OTHER**

**ORGANIZATIONS:** President McElynn introduced the following people:

1. Eugene Perry, First Vice President of FASNY.
2. Vincent Ammarati, President of Suffolk County Firefighters Association, who then introduced Giovanni Chiarelli, First Vice President of Suffolk County Firefighters Association. He then informed us that the next meeting of the Suffolk County Firefighters Association will be held on Tuesday January 23, 2024 at the West Babylon FD.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:** President McElynn introduced Stephen Marsar from Bellmore FD/FDNY to discuss the CISD Team that is available to anyone who asks.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES

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

Our new document has been approved and is on the website. We are in the process of digitalizing all applications so they can be completed online. Our webmaster is working on that now, but in the meantime, if you have something to submit, you can use the existing forms on the website. Remember our deadline is March 1, 2024.

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

1. During the past year, we had 2 firefighters treated for burns at NUMC. Each was treated for minor injuries in the ER and released. This is a significant improvement over 2022 when we had 12 firefighters treated at NUMC for burns. One of them died and one is still undergoing long-term treatment.
2. We have had a modest improvement with the staffing issue, with two new hires in the Burn Center. This is a good start, but we are still not fully staffed. The Foundation has reached out to our State Senators to enlist their aid in restoring the cuts in State aid to NUMC. We have not been able to get an answer as to why, when Albany is awash with funds for COVID and Tobacco aid, our public hospital has had its support reduced.
3. Last April, our Foundation teamed up with the NYC Firefighter's Burn Center Foundation to run a 'Cigar Bar' fundraiser at the Plattedeutsche. The event was very successful, and it was truly a great time. We will be returning to the Plattedeutsche again in April. Keep an eye open for details and please make sure to come out for a night of good fellowship.

**Executive Council:** Secretary Juan Batta reported that the next meeting of the Executive Council is January 25, 2024 in Albertson.

**Exempts:** Junior Past President Leon Tucholski was excused for this meeting, so Secretary Batta read the following report:

The tentative date for the 2% Tax Forum is August 9, 2024 – more information will be available, once the FASNY Convention schedule has been finalized.

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

1. Our last meeting was held in January 7, 2024 at the New Hyde Park FD with 199 Juniors present. The 2024 elections took place and the following officers were sworn in: President Khadeejah Memon of East Norwich Juniors; First Vice President Sofia Perino of New Hyde Park Juniors; Second Vice President Audrey Sasso of the Hewlett Juniors; Secretary Emelie Tejada of Plainview Juniors; treasurer Grace Ham of Bellmore Juniors;

and Sergeant-at-Arms Justin George of Syosset Juniors. Tim Delaney of Nassau County OEM spoke about the SAFER Grant for tuition reimbursement.

2. The first phase of the NCJFA App was released on January 7, 2024. So far, there have been great reviews and training has started to be registered through it.
3. Our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation Dinner was held on Saturday January 13, 2024 at the East Norwich Fire Company with 130 Juniors, Advisors, family members, and guests attended for the new officers being sworn in.
4. We are fully booked for our 2024 Exchange Trip from August 16 – 24, 2024. We are currently working on the itinerary with Skype meetings – more details to follow.
5. The Association was asked to come up with a few training courses for Juniors at the Mega Show in February. We will be doing 2 days of training: Stop the Bleed and Narcan training at the Show.
6. Our trainings are fully booked for 2024. We will be running two 1-day training programs at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy, Female Juniors in the Fire Service, Narcan Training, Stop the Bleed, and, of course, our Camp Fahrenheit 516 the week of July 22, 2024. Details can be found on our App and website.
7. The next meeting is scheduled to held on April 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Nassau County Fire Marshals Office. All are welcomed.

**Fundraising:** First Vice President Edmund Schmidt reported that the committee has had one meeting and some ideas were talked about, one of these will be introduced by Treasurer Stephen Goodman. Treasurer Goodman announced that at his business, Bounce Entertainment located at 310 Michael Drive in Syosset, will be sending 10% of the admission fees that are paid by members of a fire department, who only have to say that they are a member of a fire department to qualify, to the Association. He then spoke about the business as a whole.

**Meeting Sites:** President McElynn reported that our next membership meeting is on May 18, 2024 at the Bellmore FD. He also announced that our July membership meeting will be held on July 17, 2024 is tentatively scheduled to be hosted by the Hicksville FD, our October membership meeting will be held on October 16, 2024 at the Bethpage FD Headquarters. If your Department or Company is interested in hosting the January 2025 meeting, please let him know

**Muster:** Peter Glavas updated us on the progress on the upcoming muster. Flyers were placed on the tables for this event, which is scheduled for September 28, 2024 with a rain date of September 29, 2024. President McElynn added that we need volunteers to help this event be successful.

**Public Information/Relations:** President McElynn reported that website is up and running – is filled with information – there is a tab for the Health & Wellness Committee to add important information, such as that January has been designated as Firefighters Cancer Month along with information in regards to that. If anyone is having a fundraiser, send him the information (or a copy of the flyer) to him and it will be placed on the website. He also reported that he has been sending in information to the FASNY Volunteer Firefighter Magazine.

**State Chiefs:** President McElynn gave the following report:

1. The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs is hosting the Mega Show at the Nassau Coliseum on February 2 – 4, 2024 – parking is free and admission is \$25 per person, per day. There will be education seminars as well as all the items on display.
2. He also reported that if you wish the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs' Convention on June 12 – 15, 2024 in Syracuse, you can register and book your rooms through their website as of now – do this soon as the rooms get booked fast.

**United Memorial:** Junior Past President Leon Tucholski was excused for this meeting, so Secretary Batta read the following report:

1. The 2024 United Memorial Service will be held on Sunday May 5, 2024 at the Holy Name of Mary Catholic Church in Valley Stream starting at 7:00 PM, hosted by the Valley Stream FD.
2. Thanks to Chief Ellerbe of the Uniondale FD, the 2025 United Memorial Service will be held on Sunday May 4, 2025 location to be announced, hosted by the Uniondale FD.
3. The 2026 United Memorial Service will be held on Sunday May 3, 2026 location to be determined, hosted by the Glen Cove FD.

**Ways & Means:** Second Vice President Fred Robinson reported that the prizes will be \$85 to the winner of the 50/50 and 4 \$20 winners for the dark horse with a total of \$150 going to the Association.

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

## **REPORT OF DELEGATES**

**FASNY:**

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT EUGENE PERRY:**

1. On behalf of the FASNY Presidents and the Board of Directors a very Happy “Fire Safe” New Year.

2. FASNY Volunteer Firefighter Magazine is a Gold Award winner in the MarCom Awards, which honors excellence in marketing and communications while recognizing the creativity, hard work, generosity of industry professionals.
3. RecruitNY Weekend is April 14 – 15, 2024. A kickoff press conference will be held on February 1, 2024 at the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum and Educational Center. Press conferences will be held across the State the week prior to the event. FASNY is asking all firefighters and fire departments to display red lights on their firehouses and homes beginning on March 15, 2024 through the RecruitNY weekend. The event is dubbed “Light the State Red” in support of the Volunteer Fire Service and RecruitNY. This is also being promoted to Governor Kathy Hochul to light up State landmarks red.
4. OFPC has published its Rule and Regulations for the rollout of the Training Stipend that was approved in the Governor’s 2023-24 State budget. Our legislative team has read through it and will be making comments before the comment period ends on January 28, 2024. The rules as of this point will provide a stipend to any firefighter in good standing who successfully completes Interior Firefighter Operations (FF1), Basic Exterior Firefighter Operations, and Fire Officer 1 on or after August 31, 2023. There is also paperwork that the Chief’s Office of the Department must complete annually for their members to be eligible for the stipend.
5. OSHA is proposing through a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to issue a new safety and health standard titled ***Emergency Response*** to replace the existing Fire Brigades Standard, 29 CFR 1910.156. The new standard would address a broader scope of emergency responders from a variety of occupational hazards. FASNY, the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs, the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, and the County Fire Coordinators’ of the State of New York have been meeting weekly to stay ahead of this. The National Volunteer Fire Council will be putting out a six page memo regarding this proposed new standard which is over 600 pages long. President McEllynn asked FASNY First Vice President Perry to send him a copy and this will be posted on our website.
6. The Annual FASNY EMS Seminar will be held on January 26 – 27, 2024 at the Selden FD. You can register on the FASNY website.
7. FASNY will be at the Long Island Mega Show on February 2 – 4, 2024 at the Nassau Coliseum. FASNY President Ed Tase, Jr. will be at the show.
8. The FASNY Winter Games will also be held on February 2 – 4, 2024 in Cortland, which he will be attending.
9. FASNY First Vice President Perry then spoke about the following items that are in Governor Hochul’s proposed 2024 – 2025 budget:
  - A. Peer-To-Peer Support Program - \$2,000,000 line item related to suicide prevention, peer-to-peer training, and other mental health support and services for veterans and first responders including disaster relief workers; with an additional \$1,000,000

- allocated for Department of Mental Health Services for first responder suicide prevention efforts.
- B. Batteries – a proposed ban on selling new or second-hand uncertified lithium ion batteries, small civil penalty for violation, and would take effect 90 days after the budget is signed into law.
  - C. EMS As An Essential Service – designation of medical emergency response and emergency medical dispatch agencies as essential services.

**DIRECTOR JOSE DaROCHA:** was excused for this meeting.

**DIRECTOR MICHAEL KRUMMENACKER:** was excused for this meeting.

**HOME TRUSTEE JAMES INTERDONATI:** gave the following report:

1. Introduced newest Home Trustee Vincent Ammarati.
2. There are 88 members in the Home with 6 – 10 applications waiting.
3. There is a new Director of Nursing – she started as a cleaner and worked her way up.
4. There have been a couple of COVID cases.
5. If you want anymore information regarding admission to the Home see himself or Home Trustee Walter Frame.

**HOME TRUSTEE WALTER FRAME:** was excused for this meeting.

## **SOUTHERN NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:**

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

1. The Legislative Conference will be held on Saturday January 20, 2024 at the Albertson Fire Company with continental breakfast being served at 8:00 AM and the conference beginning at 9:00 AM – please wear your Class “A” uniform if you are attending. After the Conference, we will be having a clearinghouse regarding any legislative items to be brought up.
2. The next Board meeting will be held on February 26, 2024 via Zoom starting at 7:30 PM.
3. The next scheduled Membership meeting will be held on March 23, 2024 at the Glen Cove FD with dinner being served at 7:00 PM and the meeting starting at 8:00 PM.

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

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The following were received by the Secretary:

1. Meeting minutes from the North Shore Fire Council meeting held on December 8, 2023 at the Locust Valley FD.
2. Holiday card from Roslyn Rescue FD.

Motion made by Past President Interdonati, seconded by Past President Gaffney, and carried to accept the communications as read.

**BILLS:**

Leon Tucholski	2 50-Year Certificates	\$40.00
Juan Batta	Secretary Stipend	\$400.00
Anthony Tripp	Financial Secretary Stipend	\$400.00
Stephen Goodman	Treasurer Stipend	\$400.00
Executive Council of Firemanic Associations of Nassau County	2024 Dues	\$350.00
Kevin McElynn	Reimbursement for food for Board Meeting	\$45.31
John Wicks	Reimbursement for Uniform	\$361.50
Anthony Tripp	Office Supplies	\$244.98
Glen Cove Printing	Dues Notices & Membership Cards	\$640.00
Minuteman Press	Dinner Journal & Dinner Letter	\$1,250.67
Stephen Marsar	CISD Team Training	\$210.29
Kevin McElynn	Reimbursement for NCFA Ladies Auxiliary Past President Gift	\$100.00
Leon Tucholski	4 50-Year Certificates	<u>\$100.00</u>
	<b>Total Bills</b>	<b>\$4,905.10</b>

Motion made by Paul Waas, seconded by Past President Messina, and carried to pay the bills.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Donald Holupka reported that the next meeting of the Long Island Association of Firemen's Benevolent and Exempt Associations will be held on Friday January 25, 2024 at the East Farmingdale FD and that the main topic will be street listings.
2. Pete Prudente reported that the North Shore Holy Name Society will be having a fundraiser breakfast on Sunday March 3, 2024 at the Great Neck Alerts Fire Company starting at 8:30 AM, Class "A" uniform if you are attending.
3. FASNY First Vice President Perry reported that there will be a meeting on EMS Cost Recovery at the South Country Ambulance located at 420 Station Road in Bellport with dinner being served at 7:00 PM.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

### **PRESIDENT KEVIN McELLYNN:** gave the following report:

1. Thank you to the Office of Emergency Management for their hospitality in allowing us to meet here this evening. Hopefully, you got to see some of the resources available as needed. All we need to do is request it through Firecom.
2. Meeting format – At all meetings, we will not be going committee by committee for reports. If you have a committee report, let us know. Written reports are appreciated.
3. We had another speaker lined up for tonight's meeting, but he was rushed to the hospital.
4. I have been communicating with the Health & Wellness Committee. They will be posting items on the website on their tab.
5. I attended the NCJFA Installation Dinner this past Saturday in East Norwich.
6. I was personally invited to the next meeting of the Long Island Legislative Committee in Lakeview on February 7, 2024 and will have a report at our next membership meeting. Apparently, they invited all of the Organization Presidents to attend.
7. Winter is here – as you can see from the temperature tonight – be prepared for the foul weather.
8. Secretary Batta and I will be attending the Suffolk County Firefighter's Association's meeting in West Babylon next week.
9. Thank you for your continued support! We could not do all we do without you! Please feel free to contact any officer if you need assistance of any kind.

### **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT EDMUND SCHMIDT:** gave the following report:

1. He attended the Glen Cove FD Installation Dinner this past Saturday.
2. He reported that he took the tour that was offered tonight.
3. The Nassau County Volunteer Fire Police Association's Annual Installation Dinner will be held on Sunday January 28, 2024 at Verdi's Restaurant in Westbury starting at 12:30 PM. If you are attending, wear your Class "A" uniform.
4. Thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting.
5. Looking forward to the New Year.

### **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT FRED ROBINSON:** gave the following report:

1. There will be 2 EMT Refresher classes starting on January 31, 2024 either 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM or 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays. The other class will start on February 6, 2024 either 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM or 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
2. The next South Shore Volunteer Fire Departments Association meeting will be held this Friday at the Westbury FD with dinner being served at 7:00 PM and the meeting starting at 8:00 PM.



**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS JOHN WICKS:** was excused for this meeting. Second Vice President Robinson reported that we have 42 people who signed in and 3 guests.

**SECRETARY JUAN BATTÀ:** wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**TREASURER STEPHEN GOODMAN:** read his report, which is on file. He also reported that he attended the following:

1. Executive Council general meeting on November 9, 2023.
2. North Shore Fire Council general meeting on November 10, 2023.
3. Nassau County Firefighters Association board meeting on November 15, 2023.
4. Glenwood FD Installation Dinner on December 2, 2023.
5. Nassau County Firefighters Association Muster Committee meeting on December 14, 2023.
6. Nassau County Firefighters Association Fundraising Committee meeting on January 10, 2024.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANTHONY TRIPP:** was excused for this meeting, so the following report was read by Secretary Batta:

This month I have turned over to the Treasurer the sum of \$330.00 in Dues. Of the 555 members, 211 have paid their dues for a total of \$3,980.00.

Dues bills have been mailed out for the current year in November.

There are 26 out of 101 Departments and Companies that owe their dues beginning May 1, 2022. All Member, Department or Company dues notices for the 2023-2024 year have been 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	555
Dept./Co. members	<u>101</u>
Total Membership	656

Members not paid	504
Dept. Co. not paid	101

Motion made by Past President Interdonato, seconded by Jeff Peress, and carried to accept the reports of officers.

## **GOOD & WELFARE:**

1. Treasurer Goodman reported that Rabbi Marim Charry has been named an Honorary Chief of the Great Neck Vigilant Fire Company.
2. Past President Messina reported that the Nassau County Fire Chiefs Association's Annual Seminar will be on January 30, 2024 at the Uniondale FD Van Ness Station - \$35 per person or \$40 at the door. Fliers have been placed on the tables before the meeting.

**DARK HORSE & 50/50:** Prized were raffled off.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** was given by Father Costigan.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:** was made by Abby Mosselen, seconded by Peter Glavas, and carried.

**TIME: 9:28 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Juan Batta, Secretary