

**NASSAU COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**BETHPAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**OCTOBER 16, 2024**

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

President McElynn introduced First Assistant Chief Peter Castelliano who welcomed us to the Bethpage Fire Department. President McElynn thanked him for the use of his firehouse for the meeting tonight.

Roll Call of the Officers, Past Presidents, Directors, and Committee Chairs was taken, and excuses noted. Motion made by Financial Secretary Anthony Tripp, seconded by Past President Richard Messina, and carried to accept the Roll Call of Officers with the excuses noted.

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

**SEATING OF NEW DELEGATES:** Mike Henry, delegate for Bethpage FD was introduced.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:**

President McElynn introduced Nassau County Firefighter's Association's Ladies Auxiliary President Theresa Occhipinti who introduced her officers who were in attendance: First Vice President Kirsten Kenny, Recording Secretary BJ Gilmor, Treasurer Barbara Stone, Financial Secretary Ginny Marshall, and 2-Year Trustee Ruth Iverson.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERS:**

President McElynn introduced Jerry Presta, Head Advisor of the Nassau County Junior Firefighters Association, who introduced NCJFA President Khadeejah Memon and Sergeant-at-Arms Justin George. He then played a video and discussed the recent NCJFA trip to Germany.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEES

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

Applications for all awards are available on the website. If you submitted an individual and used the Fire Marshall's form, we will accept it with a cover letter from your Department. The deadline is March 1, 2025, which was changed so if the committee feels it warrants further attention, we can forward it to Southern NY Volunteer Firefighters Associations as well as FASNY.

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

1. The staffing at the Burn Center have improved significantly over the last few months. We are pleased to welcome Danielle Pollaro as Director of Critical Care, Burn and Hyperbarics; and Danielle Cannizaro, the new Nurse Manager at the Burn Center; each of whom have been very active and very responsive. The hospital has just hired two new burn nurses, in addition to the newly hired PA and other technicians. We are currently staffed to the extent that diversions of patients is not anticipated, except in the case of mass casualty incidents, which has always been the protocol.
2. Our heartfelt thanks go out to NUMC's acting CEO Meg Ryan, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the hospital, and on behalf of the Burn Center.
3. The NUMC's Burn Center partnership with the Department of Defense continues to be developed. We have had online training sessions for military medical personnel all around the country, with over 80 participants. In person training sessions will begin shortly. Thanks to Dr. Jeanine Weiss, DDS, of the Albertson Fire Company and of the US Navy Reserve, and to the Burn Center's Dr. David Parizh, for putting this together.

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

The Installation Dinner will be held at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville on Tuesday June 18, 2025 with the cocktail hour starting at 6:30 PM. Cost is \$85 per person.

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

1. EMS courses are on going. Most EMT's are going for the CFR course instead of retaining their EMT certifications due to the requirements being forced on them by the State.
2. Once again, the new go-to drug is the Nitrous Oxide, or whip-its. This is dangerous to inhale, which lead to a few states to ban selling this to minors under 21 years old.

**Executive Council:** Secretary Juan Batta reported that the next meeting of the Executive Council is November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Albertson Fire Company.

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

The FASNY 2% Tax Forum is scheduled to be held at the FASNY 2025 Convention in Hauppauge, date and time to be determined.

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

1. Our last meeting was on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Carle Place Fire Department, we had 158 Juniors present. A retired Nassau County police officer spoke about bullying. Our partner from Germany, Marcell, attended the meeting and spoke to everyone – he was in town for an event.
2. The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Camp Fahrenheit 516 was a huge success. The Camp took place from July 22<sup>nd</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup>. We had 48 Juniors from 21 different Fire Companies. The graduation took place on Friday July 26<sup>th</sup> at the Morlley Center in Bethpage to a packed house.
3. Our Exchange trip to Germany was a huge success from August 16<sup>th</sup> to August 24<sup>th</sup> – we had 30 Juniors and 9 Chaperones from 20 different Fire Companies, who had the experience of a lifetime. Not only did they learn about firefighting in another country, but they had a once in a lifetime cultural experience. The coverage was so big on social media, other countries are now questioning what it was about. We are currently in talks for another life changing experience. We cannot even begin to cover what we did – to see the day-by-day experience, go to our Facebook and Instagram pages at “Nassau Juniors.”
4. On Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 71 Juniors attended the parade at the FASNY Firefighters Home in Hudson on LI Day.
5. On October 6<sup>th</sup>, we had our Fall Single Day Training at the Nassau County FSA: Flashover Simulator and 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Fires. We had 38 Juniors attend from Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens.
6. On Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our FSA Day at the Academy, where the Juniors will get to go through various evolutions.
7. On Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting a comedy show sponsored by Laughter Saved Lives. It will be held at the Jericho Fire Department, the cost for dinner and show is \$40 per person. All proceeds will go towards the NCJFA Training and Education Fund. More information and tickets will be available at the next NCJFA meeting.
8. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> at the Bellmore Fire Department at 10:00 AM. All are welcomed. Southern NY Volunteer Firefighters Association will be sponsoring this meeting.

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

1. The next scheduled meeting of the Volunteer Fire Police Association of NYS will be held on Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> in Keesville, NY.
2. The next scheduled meeting of the Volunteer Fire Police Association of Nassau County is on Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Syosset Fire Department starting at 1:00 PM.

**Fundraising:** Financial Secretary Tripp reported that we made a profit of \$2,020 from the raffles held in July. The Board will talk about whether or not to hold another one at the next Board meeting.

**Meeting Sites:** President McElynn gave the following report:

1. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 15, 2025 at the Glen Cove Fire Department.
2. Our Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 21, 2025 at the South Farmingdale Fire Department.

**Muster:** Peter Glavas gave the following report:

1. Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>:
  - A. The weather was overcast with sporadic rain, so the event was shortened from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
  - B. Despite the weather, we had 500 attendees, including the general public, firefighters, and a few dignitaries.
  - C. We had 27 out of the 30 registered antique rigs attended from 22 Long Island Fire Departments, including some with multiple antique rigs.
  - D. Everyone who attended was excited to be there and had a wonderful time. As one committee member stated: “you awoke the beast.”
  - E. The Museum reported that over 300 people rotated through its doors.
2. Fundraising:
  - A. While the exact amount raised is pending some outstanding expenses, we far exceeded expectations, especially when the weather is considered.
  - B. For those in attendance who could not attend, you still have an opportunity to contribute:
    - i. Commemorative Challenge Coins are \$10 each.
    - ii. Commemorative Shirts are \$20 in most sizes from Children’s to Adult 4XL.
    - iii. If interested, see me after the meeting.
3. Thank You:
  - A. I would like to take a moment to thank President McElynn for his leadership, as well as the Ladies Auxiliary, who sold the shirts, and all the committee members, many of which are in this room, for their hard work during the year.
4. 2025:
  - A. Planning for next year has already begun.
  - B. The first official committee meetings will start up in January 2025. Please reach out to me if you want to join the team.

**Nassau Day at the Home:** Past President Steve Klein gave the following report:

Jose DaRocha could make the meeting as he is recovering for a medical procedure. This year’s event was poorly attended. If not for the Junior Firefighters support, we would have been embarrassed. The 2025 date is Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>. Please plan to attend to support our Members in the Home.

**Public Information/Relations:** President McElynn gave the following report:

1. Our website, [www.ncfany.org](http://www.ncfany.org), is up to date.
2. The Southern NY columns have been submitted on time for the FASNY Volunteer Firefighter Magazine.
3. If you have an event that you want publicized, send the info to him and it will be published, either on the website, the Southern NY column, or both.

**Speakers:** President McElynn reported that the speaker for the January meeting will be Kristina Moon of the Billy Moon Foundation.

**State Campaign & Hospitality:** Past President Klein gave the following report:

1. I am sad to announce the passing of Arthur “Artie” Rypka who served on this committee for more than forty (40) years. Any candidate from Nassau County for any state association position either FASNY or NYSAFC during those years owes a debt of gratitude to Artie for his work in producing a first-class hospitality room. Unfortunately, due to Artie’s passing, we were unable to conduct our annual appeal for funds for the room. Please remember this when you receive the appeal for next year.
2. We will be taking part in the Hospitality Room at the FASNY Legislative Conference, Hours of operation will be from 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM Thursday through Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

1. Long Island Fire-EMS Expo is scheduled for January 29 – through February 2, 2025 at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum – admission is \$25 per person and includes 2 free classes for all attendees.
2. NYSAFC Annual Convention is scheduled for June 4 – 7, 2025 in Syracuse. More info to follow.

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

1. The next United Memorial Service will be held on May 4, 2025 at Kellenberg High School hosted by the Uniondale Fire Department – assembly at 6:30 PM with the Service starting at 7:00 PM.
2. The 2026 United Memorial Service will held on May 2, 2026 hosted by the Glen Cove Fire Department, location to be determined.
3. The 2027 United Memorial Service will be held on May 1, 2027 hosted by the Oceanside Fire Department at the Oceanside High School.

**Ways & Means:** Sergeant-at-Arms Wicks gave the following report:

1. We collected \$180 for the raffle with 4 \$20 prizes as well as 4 prizes with \$100 for the Association.
2. We collected \$205 for the 50/50 with \$103 for the winner, and \$102 for the Association.

Motion made by Past President James Interdonati, seconded by Past President Phil “Butch” Grella, and carried to accept the reports of committees as read.

## **REPORT OF DELEGATES**

### **FASNY**

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

1. The FASNY Legislative Conference is scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, NY.
2. The NYS Comptroller has approved the usage of 2% Funds to send delegates to either the Legislative Conference or the Convention.

**DIRECTOR ROBERT OTTAVIANO, JR.:** gave the following report:

1. Thank you for support in electing me to the position.

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

1. He is entering his 9<sup>th</sup> year as a Trustee – a very rewarding experience.
2. There was supposed to be an Open House at the Home on October 5<sup>th</sup>, but it was cancelled due to a COVID situation at the Home.
3. Long-time resident Robert Hicks of Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department passed away this past week – funeral services and burial will be held at the Home.

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

### **SOUTHERN NY**

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

1. Thank you to those who attended our last meeting at the Stony Point Fire Department Wayne Hose Company on October 5<sup>th</sup>.
2. The Southern NY Caucus at the FASNY Legislative Conference will be held on Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 PM in the Ferris Ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy.

3. The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Central Islip Fire Department with dinner being served at 7:00 PM and the meeting soon after.
4. The next Membership meeting will be held on Saturday January 4, 2025 at the West Babylon Fire Department, with dinner being served at 7:00 PM and the meeting at 8:00 PM.
5. The Legislative Outreach will be held on Saturday January 25, 2025 at the Albertson Fire Company with bagels & coffee at 8:00 AM and the Outreach starting at 9:00 AM.

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT STEVE KLEIN:** gave the following report:

1. You must have your dues paying card to enter the Southern NY Caucus at the FASNY Legislative Conference.

**SECRETARY KEVIN McELLYNN:** gave the following report:

1. Please submit all reports in writing – it makes his job much easier.
2. When making a motion, please state your name, department, and county so it gets recorded correctly.

**TREASURER ROY DAHLEN:** was excused for the meeting.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Received by the Secretary:
  - A. None was received by the Secretary.
2. Sent by the Secretary:
  - A. Letter to the Bethpage Fire Department, thanking them for hosting tonight's meeting.
  - B. Journal Ad in the 2025 Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum's Annual Gala Journal.

**BILLS:**

Kevin McElynn	FASNY Convention Stipend	\$1,500.00
Glen Cove Printing	Dues Notices, etc.	\$370.00
Roy Dahlen	Reimbursement for Gift Cards for FASNY Buckenmeyer Scholarship	\$100.00
Leon Tucholski	Jose DaRocha certificate of appreciation	\$15.00
Kevin McElynn	Reimbursement for July meeting food	\$332.65
Leon Tucholski	Ed Tase, Jr. and Marilyn Schrader certificates of appreciation (2 for \$15 each)	\$30.00
Nassau County Junior Firefighters Association	2024 Camp Fahrenheit 516	\$500.00

Raffle Winners	8 checks	\$450.00
Raffle Winners	11 checks	\$700.00
Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum	2024 Museum Gala	\$1,500.00
FASNY	Annual Dues	\$100.00
Executive Council of Firematic Associations of Nassau County	Annual Dues	<u>\$350.00</u>
	<b>Total Bills</b>	<b>\$5,947.65</b>

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Motion made by Past President Grella, seconded by Paul Yura, and carried to set aside a page in memory of Past President Arthur “Artie” Rypka.

## **REPORT OF OFFICERS**

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

1. Welcome to our Ladies Auxiliary Board members to our meeting. Thank you for attending.
2. The 2024 Muster was a huge success, despite the weather. Congratulations to Great Neck Vigilant on winning best overall with their American LaFrance. Thank you to all who stayed and supported our vendors.
3. As of last night, we found out that the Nassau County Rehab Unit is out of service. We, Baldwin Fire Department, had a working fire and they were not available.
4. I attended the FASNY Convention in Niagara Falls in August. Next year, the convention comes to Long Island.
5. I attended the Long Island Day at the Home this year. Those who attended had a great day! Please join us in 2025.
6. Thank you all for the cards, texts, emails, and calls during my recent injury. They did do a CAT Scan, and yes, I do have a brain!

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

1. I attended the following events:
  - A. LI Day at the Firefighters Home on September 15<sup>th</sup>.



- B. Town of Babylon Fire Police Association meeting at the West Islip Fire Department on September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Nassau County Firefighters Association's Board Meeting at the Baldwin Fire Department on September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- D. South Shore Volunteer Fire Departments Association's meeting at the Plainview Fire Department on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- E. Nassau County Volunteer Fire Police Association's meeting at the Plainview Fire Department on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- F. Muster Committee meeting at the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- G. Executive Council of Firematic Associations of Nassau County's Annual meeting at the South Farmingdale Fire Department on September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- H. The Muster at the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**SERGEANT-AT-ARMS JON WICKS:** reported that 43 people signed in for the meeting.

**TREASURER STEPHEN GOODMAN:** reported on the financial status of the Association – his report is on file.

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

1. Please keep the written reports coming, they make my job easier.
2. I have copies of the Committee List here on the dais, see me after the meeting.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANTHONY TRIPP:** gave the following report:

This month I have turned over to the Treasurer the sum of \$225.00 in dues. Of the 557 members, 218 have paid their dues this year for a total of \$6,315.00.

Dues notices were mailed out for the current year at the end of June.

There are 16 out of the 101 Department and Companies that owe dues for the year beginning May 1, 2022. There are 30 out of the 101 Department and Companies that owe dues for the year beginning May 1, 2023.

Status of the Membership:

Dues paying members	557
Dept./Co. members	<u>101</u>
Total Membership	658

Members not paid	335
Dept./Co. members not paid	101

Motion made by Past President Messina, seconded by Past President Interdonati, and carried to accept the report of officers.

### **GOOD & WELFARE:**

1. Secretary Batta reported that Past President Otto Kohlmier, Jr. is home from rehab – he had his knee replaced.
2. Secretary Batta also reported that it good to see President McElynn and Thomas Underhill in attendance for the meeting.
3. Past President Klein reported that Jose DaRocha is recovering from a medical procedure.

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

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

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:** made by Past President Interdonati, seconded by Past President Robert Ottaviano, Jr., and carried.

**TIME: 9:09 PM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Juan Batta, Secretary

***THE MEMBERS OF THE  
NASSAU COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS  
ASSOCIATION  
DO HEREBY SET ASIDE THIS PAGE  
IN MEMORY OF***

***ARTHUR “ARTIE”  
RYPKA***

***WHO WAS A LIFE MEMBER AND  
PAST PRESIDENT WHEN HE PASSED  
AWAY***