

NASSAU COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SOUTH FARMINGDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT
MAY 21, 2025

First Vice President Edmund Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:02 PM. Salute to the Flag was led by Sergeant-at-Arms John Wicks. First Vice President Schmidt 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 Sergeant-at-Arms Wicks.

First Vice President Schmidt introduced Chief of Department George McFarland who welcomed us to the South Farmingdale Fire Department. First Vice President Schmidt thanked him for the use of his firehouse for the meeting tonight as well as for the food.

Roll Call of the Officers, Past Presidents, Directors, and Committee Chairs was taken, and excuses noted. Motion made by Past President Otto Kohlmier, Jr., seconded by John Scalesi, and carried to accept the Roll Call of Officers with the excuses noted.

Motion by Past President Thomas Gaffney, seconded by Paul Yura and carried to accept the minutes of the January meeting as posted to our website.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS FROM OTHER

ORGANIZATIONS: First Vice President Schmidt then introduced the following people: Barbara Stone from LAFASNY; Mike Karashay, FASNY Director; Eric Orr, FASNY Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms; and Alana Petrocelli from the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Educational Center.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER: First Vice President Schmidt, instead of introducing a guest speaker, presented a check for \$5,000 to Alana Petrocelli for the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Educational Center from the proceeds of the Muster held last year. Alana Petrocelli thanked the Association for the gift and is looking forward to this year's Muster.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Awards: Secretary Juan Batta reported that the Firefighter of the Year 2024 is Assistant Chief Michael Parise from the Baldwin FD and that the Baldwin FD was also awarded a Unit Citation for their actions at a confined space rescue on May 20, 2024.

Burn Center: Past President Gaffney gave the following report:

Four years ago, the Burn Center was experiencing a serious staffing shortage. The Burn Center Foundation, with the backing of the fire service, was able to persuade the hospital's administration to address this issue, even though Albany had been cutting funds to the hospital since 2019. The Burn Center is now fully and properly staffed. This response to a pressing issue was provided by the new administration, headed by the new Chairman of the Board, Mathew Bruderman, who had been appointed by County Executive Bruce Blakeman.

Mr. Bruderman (even by his own admission) can be brusque; is prone (also by his own admission) to making not-well-thought-out public statements; and was immediately met with opposition from Albany and from the local press, who have been demanding his resignation since the day he was appointed. However, Mr. Bruderman also made a pledge at the outset that it was his intention to give this Public Benefit Hospital the means to succeed.

Pursuant to this pledge, all political appointments would be ended. No more jobs will be given to friends and relatives. This pledge has been honored. At the last Board Meeting, Kasi Bowen, E.V.P. in charge of Human Resources, reported that, over the decades she has worked there, there was a seemingly endless stream of demands that people be given jobs for personal or political reasons. She testified that, in the last four years, she has not had one single demand for any such appointments, and that all hirings have been merit-based only, with no outside interference.

Last December, over the objection of Albany, and of the local press, Meg Ryan has been appointed as CEO of the Hospital, after serving in that role as an intermediary appointment. Meg Ryan has been a ball of energy, and has made great strides in improving the performance of the Hospital. The staff and employees love her, as they know that she is working for them and for the patients, and answers to nobody but them.

The administration finally appointed a proper Chief Financial Officer, who has made significant changes in fiscal affairs at the Hospital, which have greatly improved its overall performance.

In spite of all this progress, the demands for the resignation of these dedicated people have neither ceased, nor abated. Until recently, County Executive Blakeman has backed his appointees. But he recently caved in and made a deal with Albany. Mr. Bruderman was peremptorily fired. A new Board of Trustees will take over June 1st, with Albany getting enough seats to constitute a super-majority. Nassau County is no longer in control of the Hospital. Meg Ryan will certainly be fired, as will others who have worked so hard to make these improvements at NUMC.

It is unknown what course this new Board will take. But we do risk the loss of Nassau County's only Burn Center. We face the prospect of having to transport severely burned patients a half hour or more to the nearest site. The fire service is going to have to step up, and start letting the "powers that be" know that this is an unacceptable prospect.

To be continued

Dinner: Past President Richard Messina gave the following report:

The Annual Installation Dinner will take place at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville on Tuesday June 17th with the Cocktail Hour starting at 6:30 PM - tickets are still available at \$85 per person. President McElynn reported that the journal is going well and is going to the printer next week. The date for the 2026 Annual Installation Dinner has been booked at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville for June 16, 2026.

EMS: John Scalesi gave the following report:

1. EMS Week is from May 18th – 24th.
2. A lot of EMT's are going to CFR instead of re-certifying as an EMT – CFR is considered a lower level than EMT.

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

The FASNY 2% Forum is scheduled for Friday August 8th at the FASNY Convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Hauppauge at 1:30 PM.

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

1. Our last meeting was on March 30th at the New Hyde Park FD. There were 143 Juniors in attendance where the LIRR was the speaker.
2. Together with the FSA, we hosted another online Essentials of Firefighting that started on February 2nd. The class finished last week. We now have another 34 Juniors with their Essentials certification. When they enter their fire companies/departments, they will only have to take their primaries, Marcell, from Haverlah in Germany, is also participating in this to gain better knowledge on the American Fire Service.
3. On March 23rd, we hosted our 1st Annual EMS Symposium and Conference at the Uniondale FD where 117 Juniors from 23 different fire companies/departments attended. There were speakers, training sessions, and representatives from local hospitals and colleges for career opportunities.
4. On April 6th, we kicked off our single day training with Propane & Thermal Imaging Class at the FSA. There were 30 Juniors from 15 different fire companies/departments.
5. On May 16th, we held our Extrications and Victim Removal class at the FSA where 41 Juniors from 17 different fire companies/departments participated.

6. Application period for Camp Fahrenheit 516 is now open - the camp will run from July 21st to July 25th with graduation that day at 5:00 PM.
7. We once again have the honor of being able to earn the German Youth Flame Knowledge Award on July 20th hosted at the Jerich FD. Information can be found on our app and social media to sign up.
8. The FSA has come up with giving the graduating seniors “Red” Ropes to be worn on graduation day highlighting that they are part of the volunteer fire service. Emails were sent out with the link to your Firefighters, EMT’s, Juniors, & Cadets.
9. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday June 8th at 11:00 AM at Hicksville FD Station 3. All are welcome.

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

1. The last meeting of the Nassau County Volunteer Fire Police Association was held on May 17th at the Westbury FD and was very informative.
2. The next meeting of the Nassau County Volunteer Fire Police Association is scheduled for July 19th at the Hicksville FD Station 3.
3. The New York State Volunteer Fire Police Association has a new President, Jon Wicks, and the next scheduled meeting is October 25th in Troy.

Legislative: Sergeant-at-Arms Wicks gave the following report:

1. Please check the FASNY website for the scorecard of items in the Legislature.
2. The EMS Recovery has been extended until 2031.
3. The bill banning PFAS chemicals in turnout gear has passed – will go into effect in 2028.
4. Please sign up for Voters Voice on the FASNY website – just enter your name, email address and you will be notified about bills in the Legislature affecting firefighting and EMS.

Muster: Peter Glavas gave the following report:

My name is Peter Glavas, and I am the chairman of the Muster Committee. The Nassau County Firefighters Association is proud to host its 2nd Annual Antique Fire Muster & Fundraiser on Saturday August 23rd.

Our Mission Statement is “To increase Fire Service & Public Awareness about the living history that is our Antique Rigs and to show support for the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Educational Center.”

On your tables, you will find flyers for this event and donation letters. Please share them with your Departments and friends. Additional information for donations and registration are available on the NCFA website.

Along with my Co-Chairman Don McIntosh, we are fortunate to have 14 dedicated members who share our mission goal. This year we have already met 5 times, the most recent

was last night, May 20th. All Departments/Companies and organizations have been notified. Everyone is working hard to get the word out. Excellent progress has been made.

We expect this to be a big event this year and look forward to a fun-filled day with all of you in attendance.

If you have any questions, my contact information is on the flyer.

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

1. The date is September 21st.
2. The gift for the residents has already been approved.
3. Please come up – the residents love it.

Nominations & Elections: Past President Messina reported that there will be elections this meeting.

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

1. We will have a Hospitality Room at the New York State Chiefs Association's Convention in June.
2. This year at the FASNY Convention, Walter Frame is up for his second 5-Year term as Home Trustee.
3. We will also be participating in the Hospitality Event at the FASNY Convention in August.
4. In 2026, Mike Krummenacker is running for the office of Second Vice President of FASNY. Also in 2026, James Interdonati will be finishing out his 10-years of service as a Home Trustee and Jon Wicks will be running for that position.

State Chiefs: Financial Secretary Tony Tripp reported that the New York State Chiefs Association's Convention will be held on June 4th – 7th in Syracuse.

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

The date for the 2026 Memorial is May 3, 2026 in Glen Cove at the Glen Cove Middle School – more info to follow.

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

REPORT OF DELEGATES

FASNY

DIRECTOR MIKE KRUMMENACKER: gave the following report:

1. The upcoming FASNY Legislative Conference in November will have some changes to it – this will be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting.
2. The proposed changes in the OSHA 1910 rule public comments are over – they are reviewing all the comments submitted, no other comments are accepted – FASNY is waiting for the next step. Other Associations are complaining about how FASNY is handling this – more to follow.
3. The FASNY Convention is scheduled for August 7th – 9th in Hauppauge as well as 2026.
4. Reminded everyone that the FASNY Firefighters Home is the only one that doesn't take any Medicare/Medicaid monies.

DIRECTOR ROBERT OTTAVIANO: was excused for this meeting.

HOME TRUSTEE JAMES INTERDONATI: reported that we had a couple of cases of COVID at the Home, but it is all clearing up.

HOME TRUSTEE WALTER FRAME: was excused for this meeting.

SOUTHERN NEW YORK

JUNIOR PAST PRESIDENT JUAN BATTÀ: gave the following report:

1. We had our Annual Meeting on May 17th in Hagerman and the following people were elected to office:

President:	Frank Guarino
First Vice President:	Steve Klein
Second Vice President:	Robert Sutton
Secretary:	Kevin McElynn
Treasurer:	Roy Dahlen
Financial Secretary:	Robert McConville
Nassau Directors:	Mike Krummenacker, Jon Wicks, & Thomas Underhill
Directors-at-Large:	Jose DaRocha
Directors:	Robert Ottaviano, & Juan Battà

2. The Annual Installation Dinner is scheduled for Friday May 30th at the Nassau County Bar Association in Mineola – tickets are still available for \$85 per person.

3. Thank you to this Association for your support during my term as President.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT STEVE KLEIN: had no report.

SECRETARY KEVIN McELYNN: was excused for this meeting.

TREASURER ROY DAHLEN: was excused for this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS: The following was received by the Secretary:

1. An endorsement letter from the Oriskany Independent Fire & Hose Company for Paul Rieben for FASNY Director.
2. A solicitation from the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Educational Center for their Annual Golf Outing.
3. Materials from FASNY for their upcoming convention.
4. A thank you letter from Frank Brzozowski, a scholarship winner.

The following was sent by the Secretary:

1. An advertisement in the Southern New York Volunteer Firefighters Association's Installation Dinner Journal.

Motion made by Past President Messina, seconded by Thomas Underhill, and carried to accept the communications as read.

BILLS:

R & R Trophies & Awards	Plaque for Jose DaRocha	\$130.00
NCFA	CIST Ad - ½ Page	\$75.00
Tony Tripp	Financial Secretary Supplies	\$22.50
Minuteman Press	Dinner Mailing	\$531.50
Fire Chiefs Council of Nassau County	Postage	\$314.29
Leon Tucholski	3 Awards	\$60.00
Southern NY Volunteer Firefighters Association	Journal Ad	\$150.00
Craig Yanantuono	Website Maintenance	<u>\$270.00</u>
	Total Bills	\$1,553.29

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

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS:

Past President Messina read off the following slate of officers for the 2025 – 2027 term:

President: **Edmund Schmist, South Farmingdale FD**

First Vice President: Fred Robinson, Oceanside FD
Second Vice President: Jon Wicks, Westbury FD
Secretary: Juan Batta, Hewlett FD
Treasurer: Stephen Goodman, Great Neck Vigilant Fire Company
Financial Secretary: Anthony Tripp, Glen Cove FD

Motion made by Past President Messina, seconded by Nicholas Briganti, and carried to have the Secretary cast one affirmative ballot for the slate of officers. First Vice President Schmidt announced that Donald McIntosh will become the Sergeant-at-Arms. The officers were then sworn in by Past President Klein.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion made by Past President Kohlmier, seconded by Past President Krummenacker, and carried to purchase a new banner for the Association.
2. First Vice President Schmidt brought up the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Educational Center Golf Outing. Motion made by Financial Secretary Tripp, seconded by Steve Morelli, and carried to purchase a Tee Sign in the Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Educational Center's Golf Outing for \$175.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT KEVIN McELLYNN: was excused for this meeting, so his report was read by Secretary Batta:

1. My sincere apologies for not being able to join you tonight. I had surgery on Monday and have to stay off my feet for a couple of weeks.
2. I hereby release all my committees and thank you for a job well done.
3. I would like to thank the Uniondale FD and the committee for another successful United Memorial Service. Although the weather didn't cooperate, it was good to see so many turn out.
4. I'd like to offer my sincere congratulations to Ed, Fred, Jon, Don, Juan, Stephen, and Tony as you lead us into the new year. You have my constant support!
5. My sincere thanks to you, our members for your participation and support over the last 4 years that I had the honor to represent. It is you that makes things happen in this Association, and we have made a lot of progress in the past few years, and I would love to see that continue under your leadership.
6. Although no longer an Officer, I pledge my allegiance and will continue to serve wherever needed.
7. I hope to see you all at our dinner in June. I hope to be out and about by then.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT EDMUND SCHMIDT: gave the following report:

1. Thanks to everyone for coming to the meeting tonight.
2. Thanks to everyone for their support.
3. Thank you to President McElynn for his guidance and stewardship of the Association.
4. Please stay safe.
5. Hope to see you all the upcoming meetings of the Association.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT FRED ROBINSON: gave the following report:

1. Thank you to Kevin McElynn for his years of President of the Association and for all the hard work you have done and will continue to do.
2. Congratulations to incoming President Edmund Schmidt. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Board.
3. I would like to thank the Board and the Association for the opportunity to move up in the ranks. Thank you for your support.
4. Enjoy the Holiday Weekend and never forget the fallen military who made the supreme sacrifice – GOD bless them all.
5. There are only 3 parades this year: Lindenhurst Invite, 2nd Battalion in Point Lookout, and New York State Parade in Main Transit. New parade rules are in effect.
6. Congratulations to Juan Batta, now Past President of the Southern New York Volunteer Firefighters Association – a job well done!

SERGAENT-AT-ARMS JON WICKS: reported that 51 people signed in.

TREASURER STEPHEN GOODMAN: gave the following report:

1. Thanked everyone for their support.
2. Reported on the net worth of the Association.
3. He attended the following:
 - A. NCFA General Membership meeting on January 15th.
 - B. Nassau County Fire Commission Emergency Management Committee – monthly meeting on January 22nd.
 - C. Executive Council meeting on January 23rd.
 - D. LI Association of Fire Antique Apparatus quarterly meeting on January 24th.
 - E. Funeral services for Frank Groene on January 30th.
 - F. NCFA Muster Committee initial meeting on February 4th.
 - G. Nassau County Fire Commission Emergency Management Committee – monthly meeting on February 18th.
 - H. CIST Intervention for the Inwood FD on March 12th.
 - I. NCFA Muster Committee meeting on March 18th.
 - J. Funeral services for Joseph DaRocha on April 15th.
 - K. NCFA Board meeting on April 16th.
 - L. Funeral services for Charles Bollerman on April 25th.

M. North Shore Fire Council meeting on May 9th.
N. NCFA Muster Committee on May 20th.

SECRETARY JUAN BATTA: gave the following report:

1. Thanked everyone for their support.
2. Please keep the written reports coming.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANTHONY TRIPP: had no report as his computer is being serviced.

Motion made by Peter Waas, seconded by Nicholas Brigante, and carried to accept the reports given by the officers.

GOOD & WELFARE:

1. Past President Krummenacker reported that a grant was awarded to Nassau County for radios, but all the funds went to the Police Department, none to any fire department – a letter from the Association should be sent to the County Executive about this.
2. Past President Krummenacker also reported that he is running for FASNY Second Vice President in 2026.
3. Treasurer Goodman reported that Rabbi Charry is not feeling well – cards can be sent to his address – 8 Wooleys Lane, Great Neck, NY 11023.

DARK HORSE & 50/50: Sergeant-at-Arms Wicks reported that the Dark Horse prizes are 2 bottles of cheer and 5 \$20 prizes, and the 50/50 winner will receive \$120. Prizes were awarded.

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

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: was made by Past President Kohlmier, seconded by Past President Messina, and carried.

TIME: 9:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Juan Batta, Secretary