

NASSAU COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
CARLE PLACE FIRE DEPARTMENT
JANUARY 21, 2026

President Edmund Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. Salute to the Flag was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Donald McIntosh. The opening prayer was given by Second Vice President Jon Wicks, which was followed by 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.

President Schmidt introduced Sergeant-at-Arms McIntosh who welcomed us to the Carle Place Fire Department. President Schmidt thanked him for the use of his firehouse for the meeting tonight as well as for the dinner.

Roll Call of the Officers, Past Presidents, Directors, and Committee Chairs was taken, and excuses noted. Motion made by Junior Past President Kevin McElynn, seconded by Peter Waas, and carried to accept the Roll Call of Officers with the excuses noted.

Motion by Past President Richard Messina, seconded by David Chacez and carried to accept the minutes of the October 2025 meeting as posted to our website.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERS: President Schmidt introduced Mark Sparberg, Assistant Chief of the Oceanside Fire Department, and Brian Corkery who spoke about firefighter operations at railroad/train incidents.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Awards: Junior Past President McElynn gave the following report:

1. The deadline for receiving any award applications is March 1, 2026 and it has to be received by the committee by that date.
2. New guidelines and forms have been sent to the committee for review, and when approved by the Board, they will be posted on the website.
3. Until then, any application made on the current forms will be accepted.

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

All of the firematic organizations in Nassau County are experiencing problems with communicating news and information to the membership. Bad news always travels through the rumor mills quickly, but nothing else seems to get through. For example:

Three years ago, we had a fire in Elmont with multiple burn patients, some of whom had to be diverted from NUMC to other hospitals. The reason for the diversion was a shortage of beds. It was not because of a shortage of staff. This is a problem nationwide, and particularly with burn centers. But it's not a problem we can ignore.

The Burn Center Foundation reached out to every single Federal, State and County elected official about this problem, and we met with many of them. We also had numerous meetings with the NUMC Board and Administration. And the problem was resolved. Within the year, staffing was brought up to the necessary level, and we have had no such issues since. A couple of months ago, every bed in the Burn Center was filled, and we had no staffing issues.

For the past two years, our representatives have appeared at countless County firematic organizations, and have consistently reported that the staffing issues have been resolved. Yet, everywhere that we go, the first thing we get asked is "When is the Burn Center staffing issue going to be fixed?" So, the initial bad news sure got out, but the good news about the resolution seems not to have.

Various other organizations, such as the Museum and Operation Wounded Warrior, have experienced the same problem. Accordingly, we are looking for a person who can assist with setting up a platform that will allow information to get out to the rank and file. This will not only be a benefit to the organizations, but it will help bring back the sense of unity and common purpose to the fire service.

We can be contacted at info@ncburncenter.org with any offers of assistance or advice.

Dinner: Past President Leon Tucholski gave the following report:

The Installation Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday June 16th at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville for \$95 per person – Cocktail Hour starts at 6:30 PM and the program will start at 8:00 PM sharp.

Executive Council: Secretary Juan Batta reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 22nd at the Albertson Fire Company.

Exempts: The FASNY 2% Forum will be held at the FASNY Convention in August at the Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville – exact date & time to be determined.

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

1. Introduced the members of the NCJFA Board that were present:

Emily Brown, President from the Seaford Juniors

Cooper Glick, Second Vice President from the Garden City Juniors

Robert Gobbo, Secretary from the East Norwich Juniors

Solomon Lopez, Sergeant-at-Arms from the Uniondale Juniors

2. Our last meeting was on January 4th at the Seaford Fire Department. There were 177 Juniors in attendance where we swore in our 2026 Board of Officers.
3. Our app is being updated with all the 2026 dates, it should be available by next week.
4. Our 20th Installation Dinner will be held on Saturday February 7th at the Seaford Fire Department, starting at 5:00 PM.
5. We are sponsoring our 2nd Youth Females in the Fire Service on April 26th at the FSA in Bethpage. Emails will be going out shortly.
6. Our flights are booked for the 2026 Exchange trip on August 13th – we have started registration and have 26 Juniors and 6 Adults going. More details to follow.
7. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 19th at the North Merrick Fire Department. All are welcome.

Fire Police: Second Vice President Wicks gave the following report:

1. Nassau County Fire Police:
 - a. Installation Dinner is scheduled for Sunday January 25th starting at 12:30 PM at Verdi's Restaurant in Westbury.
 - b. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 28th starting with lunch at 1:00 PM and meeting at 1:45 PM at the Westbury Fire Department Headquarters, located at 355 Maple Ave, Westbury.
2. Fire Police Association of the State of New York (VFPASNY):
 - a. There will be a Fire Police Refresher Course given by the Suffolk County Fire Academy State Certified Instructors on Zoom on January 28th starting at 7:00 PM – you must pre-register via the VFPASNY.com website.
 - b. The Tom With Training Seminar will be held on March 21st at the Fuller Road Fire Department located at 1342 Central Ave, Colonie, NY starting at 8:30 AM – registration fee is \$35 for members of VFPASNY, non-member fee is \$50 – info is on the VFPASNY website.
 - c. VFPASNY Spring meeting is scheduled for April 11th at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy, NY.
 - d. VFPASNY Annual Convention is scheduled for May 14th – 16th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Niagara Falls – detailed information is on the VFPASNY website.

Museum: First Vice President Fred Robinson gave the following report:

1. The Museum had 38,724 visitors for the 2025 year.
2. Making good progress on the 1931 Mack – in fact, the 92 year old gentleman that donated the truck to the Museum several years ago will be coming to the Museum on Saturday January 24th to see the progress.

Nassau Day at the Home: Jose DaRocha reported that the scheduled date is September 20th – the committee will be meeting soon.

State Chiefs: Past President Messina reported that the Mega Show is scheduled for January 30th – February 1st at the Nassau Coliseum.

United Memorial: Past President Tucholski gave the following report:

1. The 2026 United Memorial is scheduled for Sunday May 3rd at St. Patrick's RC Church in Glen Cove, sponsored by the Glen Cove Fire Department.
2. The 2027 United Memorial is scheduled for Sunday May 2nd at the Oceanside HS sponsored by the Oceanside Fire Department.
3. The 2028 United Memorial is scheduled for Sunday May 7th in Bethpage – location to be determined – sponsored by the Bethpage Fire Department.

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

REPORT OF DELEGATES

FASNY

DIRECTOR MICHEAL KRUMMENACKER: gave the following report:

1. The 2026 FASNY Convention will be held in Ellicottville - located by the Pennsylvania border – on August 17th – 23rd – all reservations will be done by the FASNY office staff - the 2% Tax Forum will be lengthened - all details will be forthcoming in the Volunteer Firefighter Magazine.

DIRECTOR ROBERT OTTAVIANO: had no report.

HOME TRUSTEE JAMES INTERDONATI: gave the following report:

1. There are 82 residents in the Home.
2. Everything is going good.

3. There were some flu and COVID cases, but they were contained.
4. Hired a fundraiser planner for the Home.
5. There are 14 people currently on the waitlist.
6. If you know anyone that is interested in the Home, the forms are on the website.

HOME TRUSTEE WALTER FRAME: was excused for this meeting.

SOUTHERN NY

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT STEVE KLEIN: gave the following report:

1. The Southern NY Legislative Outreach is scheduled for Saturday January 24th at the Albertson Fire Company with light refreshments at 8:00 AM, followed by the Conference at 9:00 AM.
2. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 28th at the Hewlett Fire Department with dinner being served at 7:00 PM and the meeting at 8:00 PM.
3. All Firefighter of the Year Applications must be received by March 5th.
4. The Annual Convention will be held on May 2nd – place to be determined.
5. The Annual Installation Dinner is scheduled for Friday May 29th at the Nassau County Bar Association in Mineola.

SECRETARY KEVIN McELYNN: had no report.

TREASURER ROY DAHLEN: was excused for this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY:

1. Minutes from the North Shore Fire Council's meeting in December at the Williston Park Fire Department.
2. Minutes from the Executive Council's meeting in November at the Albertson Fire Company.

SENT BY THE SECRETARY:

1. Letter to the Carle Pace Fire Department for tonight's meeting.

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

BILLS:

Uniondale Fire Department	October Meeting Host	\$500.00
Edmund Schmidt	Flowers for Ladies Auxiliary	\$90.00
Nassau County Firefighters Association	Transfer to new account	\$4,757.50
Stephen Goodman	Treasurer's Supplies	\$368.61
Stephen Marsar	CIST Training – Food	\$102.34
Nassau County Firefighters Association's Ladies Auxiliary	Installation Dinner ticket	\$60.00
Robert Ottaviano	Balance due at FASNY Legislative Conference Dinner	\$50.00
Juan Batta	Secretary Stipend	\$400.00
Anthony Tripp	Financial Secretary Stipend	\$400.00
Stephen Goodman	Treasurer Stipend	\$400.00
Nassau County Volunteer Fire Police Association	Installation Dinner – 2 tickets	\$150.00
Nassau County Volunteer Fire Police Association	Raffle tickets	\$25.00
Leon Tucholski	7 50-Year Certificates	<u>\$140.00</u>
	Total	\$7,443.45

Motion made by Peter Waas, seconded by David Chavez, and carried to pay the Bills.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. James Meezy brought up that he is looking for donations for the 9/11 Memorial in Eisenhower Park in East Meadow – this will be brought up at the next Board of Directors meeting in April. Secretary Batta reported that he will have the flyer posted on the website.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT EDMUND SCHMIDT: gave the following report:

1. Thanked everyone for attending this meeting.
2. Thanked the presenters for an informative presentation.
3. Hoped everyone had a Happy & Safe Holidays.
4. Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT FRED ROBINSON: gave the following report:

1. Welcome to all who attended tonight's meeting.
2. Wished everyone a Happy New Year.
3. Thanked the presenters for an informative presentation.
4. The next meeting of the Long Island Exempts Association is Friday January 23rd at the West Babylon Fire Department with dinner being served at 7:00 PM and the meeting to start at 8:00 PM.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT JON WICKS: gave the following report:

1. Thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS DONALD McINTOSH: reported that 38 people signed in.

SECRETARY JUAN BATTA: wished everyone a Happy New Year.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANTHONY TRIPP: was excused for this meeting.

TREASURER STEPHEN GOODMAN: read his report, which is on file.

Motion made by Past President Messina, seconded by Jose DaRocha, and carried to accept the Reports of Officers.

GOOD & WELFARE:

1. Secretary Batta reported that he is on the list for a kidney transplant – please keep him in your prayers.
2. Past President Messina reported that the Fire Chiefs Council of Nassau County will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary with a gala on September 16th at the Crescent Beach Club starting at 7:00 PM – business attire is the dress code, no uniforms – more info to

follow. Thomas Pellegrino, who is the President of the Fire Chiefs Council of Nassau County, added that the cost is \$125 per person and is open to all.

3. Gary Wargo reported that the 4th Battalion is hosting a fundraiser for the Burn Center on Sunday March 8th in East Rockaway.
4. Treasurer Goodman reported that Rabbi Charry is doing well – give him a call.
5. Kenny Noone reported that there will be a guest speaker at the Long Island Exempts Association meeting in West Babylon.
6. Past President Steve Klein reported that the Oceanside Fire Department will be hosting the Nassau County Parade on July 18th.
7. Past President Michael Kruppenacker reported that Governor Kathy Hocu gave the State of the State Address this week and nothing was mentioned in regards to the fire service.
8. Past President Kruppenacker also reported that he is running for Second Vice President of FASNY this coming convention.
9. Second Vice President Wicks reported that he is running for Trustee of the FASNY Firefighters Home, replacing James Interdonati who has served 10 years.

DARK HORSE & 50/50: Sergeant-at-Arms McIntosh reported that we collected \$130 for the Dark Horse and we have 3 \$10 prizes along with bottles of cheer. He also reported that we collected \$180 for the 50/50 with \$90 going to the winner. Tickets were pulled and prizes were awarded.

CLOSING PRAYER: was given by Second Vice President Wicks.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: made by Peter Waas, seconded by Dave Chavez, and carried.

TIME: 9:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Juan Batta, Secretary