NASSAU COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
GLENWOOD HOOK & LADDER, ENGINE & HOSE COMPANY
OCTOBER 21, 2026

President Edmund Schmidt called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM. Salute to the Flag was led by Sergeant-at-Arms Donald McIntosh. The opening prayer was given Nassau County Firefighters Association Ladies Auxiliary's Vice President Jane Fahey McGee, 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 Past President Robert Ottaviano, who welcomed us to the Glenwood Hook & Ladder, Engine & Hose Company. 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 Treasurer Stephen Goodman, seconded by Past President James Interdonati, and carried to accept the Roll Call of Officers with the excuses noted.

Motion by Past President Otto Kohlmier, Jr., seconded by Past President Interdonati and carried to accept the minutes of the July meeting as posted to our website.

President Schmidt turned the floor over to Past President Thomas Gaffney who circulated a petition for those who are in attendance to sign to speak out the early parole of two convicted hired killers who are eligible for parole – they murdered a Syosset firefighter.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: President Schmidt asked Nassau County Firefighters Association Ladies Auxiliary's President Helene Loomis, who introduced the following officers that were with her for tonight's meeting: Vice President Jane Fahey McGee, Recording Secretary BJ Gilmore, Corresponding Secretary Ruth Iverson, Treasurer Barbara Stone, 1-Year trustee Barbara Niemczyk, and 2-Year Trustee Theresa Occhipinti. President Schmidt also asked Jerry Presta to introduce the following officers of the Nassau County Junior Firefighters Association: President Emily Brown (from the Seaford Fire Department Juniors), Second Vice President Cooper Glick (from the Garden City Fire Department Juniors), and Treasurer Gianni Biorrello (from the Port Washington Fire Department Juniors).

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Auditing: Treasurer Goodman reported that the Audit Committee will be meeting on October 29th at the Oceanside Fire Department – Terrace Hose Company # 3 at 7:00 PM.

Burn Center: Past President Gaffney gave the following report:

The Burn Center and the entire Emergency Department at NUMC continue to be properly staffed and fully functional, in spite of the other issues that the hospital is facing. We have had several occasions where all the beds in the Burn Center were filled, and had no staffing problems. The current administration is continuing the good work begun by the prior administration.

CEO Thomas Stokes has arranged to bring some of the key personnel to the Fire Commission on Monday November 9th to address any concerns that the Fire Commission may have about conditions at the hospital. The meeting is open to all. Chiefs are encouraged to attend.

Dinner: Past President Leon Tucholski was excused from the meeting, so the following report was read by Secretary Juan Batta:

The 2027 Installation Dinner will be held on Tuesday June 15, 2027 at the Coral House in Baldwin with the cocktail hour starting at 6:30 PM, installation of officers and dinner at 8:00 PM – tickets are $85 per person.

EMS: Past President Michael Reid reported that the New York State has adopted the National Registry Qualifications starting in 2027 – existing EMT-CC's can challenge the test to become Paramedics.

Executive Council: Secretary Batta reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Council is November 12th at the Albertson Fire Company starting at 7:30 PM.

Exempts: Past President Leon Tucholski was excused from the meeting, so the following report was read by Secretary Juan Batta:

1. The 2% Tax Forum at the FASNY Convention was a success.
2. The 2027 2% Forum is tentatively scheduled for August 27, 2027 in Buffalo with the same format as this year's with an Ethics and Financial Responsibilities Seminar in the morning and the 2% Forum in the afternoon – more to follow.

Explorer/Junior Firefighters: Before giving his report, Gerry Presta showed a five minute video that showed highlights of both the Camp Fahrenheit 516 summer camp and the exchange trip in Germany, which was followed by an ovation from those present. He then gave the following report:

1. Our last meeting was on October 11th at the Oceanside Fire Department. Our speaker was the Fire Marshal's Office along with K9 Chuck.
2. Our last single day training sessions for the 2026 season at the FSA was held on October 4th. Flammable liquids & Confined Space. We had a full class of 30 Juniors.
3. We have our Annual FSA Day at the Fire Academy on Sunday October 25th. We have 131 Juniors registered with 19 different Departments/Companies – 17 from Nassau and 2 from Suffolk.
4. There are 24 Juniors signed up for the Online Essentials Course starting on November 1st to January 30, 2027. We will be hosting another class in the Spring.
5. We will be setting up an Advisor Exchange Conference in the Spring, inviting Advisors to see areas and people involved in the County Exchange Program.
6. We will be holding our Annual Comedy Night Fundraiser to benefit the Training & Education Fund on November 21st at the Jericho Fire Department – donation is $50 for the show & dinner.
7. Our 2027 Calendar is in the works and will be released in early December.
8. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday November 22nd at the Levittown Fire Department at 10:00 AM. All are welcome.

Fire Police: President Schmidt reported that there was a 21-hour class given for new fire police.

Legislative: Past President Ottaviano reported that the Governor signed an amended bill that allows you to take either the $800 income tax credit or 10% off of your state property tax, but you cannot take both.

Meeting Sites: Secretary Batta gave the following report:

1. The Board of Directors will be meeting on Wednesday November 18th at the South Farmingdale Fire Department.

2. The next General Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday January 20, 2027 at the Port Washington Fire Department's Atlantic Hook & Ladder Company 1 located at 25 Carleton Ave, Port Washington.

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

1. The Museum re-arranged some of the apparatus on display.
2. There will be a Racing Teams Hall of Fame located at the Museum in the future – more info to follow.
3. The 2026 Badge of Courage Gala will be held this Friday October 23rd at the Museum.

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

1. Even though the weather did not cooperate, we still had a good turnout. The festivities happened inside the at the Home. A good time was had by all who attended.
2. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary and to the Juniors who attended.

Scholarship: Financial Secretary Anthony Tripp reported that no one applied for the scholarship award.

State Campaign & Hospitality: Past President Steve Klein was excused for the meeting, so the following was read by Secretary Batta:

The FASNY Convention went well as Secretary Batta won his contested election for Director (has to run again in 3-years) and both Second Vice President Wick and Gerry Presta were elected to the Home Trustees Board for a full 5-year term (which means we have to work hard to have both re-elected in 5 years).

United Memorial: Past President Leon Tucholski was excused from the meeting, so the following report was read by Secretary Juan Batta:

1. The 2027 United Memorial Service will be held on Sunday May 2, 2027 at the Oceanside HS, sponsored by the Oceanside FD.
2. The 2028 United Memorial Service will be held on Sunday May 7, 2028 sponsored by the Bethpage FD, place to be determined.
3. As of this date, no letters have been received by the Executive Council to sponsor the 2029 United Memorial Service.

Motion made by Paul Yura, seconded by Jose DaRocha, and carried to accept the reports of committees.

REPORT OF DELEGATES

FASNY

DIRECTOR ROBERT OTTAVIANO: reported that the next FASNY Convention will be held in Buffalo on August 25 – 28, 2027.

DIRECTOR JUAN BATTA: gave the following report:

1. Thanked the Association for their support for his candidacy as FASNY Director.
2. The FASNY Legislative Conference will be held November 6th – 8th at the Crowne Plaza Albany – the old Desmond Hotel.

HOME TRUSTEE JON WICKS: was excused for this meeting.

HOME TRUSTEE GERRY PRESTA: gave the following report:

1. Thanked the Association for their support of his candidacy – won on a write-in vote.
2. Has wanted to be a Trustee since he first went to the Home.
3. Was selected to be on a committee at the Home that is tasked with finishing the new patio.

SOUTHERN NEW YORK

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT STEVE KLEIN: was excused for this meeting, so the following report was given by Secretary Batta:

1. The next membership meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2027 at the West Babylon Fire Department – with dinner being served at 7:00 PM and the meeting to start at 8:00 PM.
2. The Southern New York Legislative Conference is scheduled for January 23, 2027 at the Albertson Fire Company.

SECRETARY KEIN McELYNN: was excused for this meeting.

TREASURER ROY DAHLEN: was excused for this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The following was received by the Secretary:

1. The minutes from the August 14th meeting of the North Shore Fire Council.
2. The latest edition of the Fire Chiefs Council of Nassau County's Chief Signal newsletter, which includes the minutes to their meeting held on June 18th.
3. A thank you card from Past President James Interdonati thanking the Association for the gift he received at his Testimonial Dinner.

The following was sent by the Secretary:

1. Letter to the Glenwood Hook & Ladder, Engine & Hose Company for hosting tonight's meeting.
2. Journal ad for the 2026 Francis X Pendl Firefighters Museum & Education Center's 2026 Badge of Courage Gala.

Motion made by Past President Interdonati, seconded by Past President Richard Messina, and carried to accept the communications.

BILLS:

Executive Council of Firematic Associations of Nassau County	2026 Dues	$350.00
Executive Council of Firematic Associations of Nassau County	James Interdonati's Testimonial Dinner	$285.00
Bill Fox Company, Inc.	Jacket Badges	$1,125.00
Francis X Pendl Nassau County Firefighters Museum & Education Center	2026 Badge of Courage Gala	$1,500.00
Stephen Goodman	Reimbursement for gift	$514.46
	Total	**$3,774.46**

Motion made by Peter Waas, seconded by Charles DeStefano, and carried to pay the bills.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. President Schmidt reported that he brought home the candles from the FASNY Convention's Memorial Service – please look to see if your Department or one nearby that you can bring back.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Paul Yura reported that the next meeting of the Fire Police Association of Nassau County will be on November 19th at the Roosevelt Fire Department. This is the one with the Memorial Service, so all attending must wear their Class "A" uniform.
2. Donald Holupka reported that the next meeting of the Long Island Exempts Association is scheduled for this Friday October 23rd at the North Patchogue Fire Department.

3. Donald Holupka also reported that he attended the Testimonial Dinner for James Interdonati and congratulated him on his 10 years as a FASNY Home Trustee. Past President Interdonati received a standing ovation from those in attendance.
4. Financial Secretary Tripp reported that the LI Mega Show is scheduled for February 5 – 7, 2027 at the Nassau Coliseum with 3 – 4 classes a day.
5. Motion made by Jose DaRocha, seconded by Past President Messina, and carried to set aside a page for Past President Walter Frame.
6. Ken Noone reported that the Red Cross has a program to give out and install smoke detectors – the contact name is John Ring and he can be reached at either john.ring3@redcross.org or by phone at (516) 650 – 0269. Secretary Batta will have the flyer posted to the website – www.ncvfa.org.

REPORT OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT EDMUND SCHMIDT: gave the following report:

1. Thought that we had a good meeting tonight.
2. Thanked the guests for attending tonight's meeting.
3. Stay safe.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT FRED ROBINSON: gave the following report:

1. Welcomed the Nassau County Firefighters Association's Ladies Auxiliary and the Nassau County Junior Firefighters Association's officers to tonight's meeting.
2. Attended James Interdonati's Testimonial Dinner – congratulations for a job well done.
3. Congratulations to Juan Batta on his election as FASNY Director and to Jon Wicks and Gerry Presta on their elections to FASNY Firefighters Board of Trustees.
4. Attended the signing of the Income Tax Credit Bill at the Hempstead Fire Department.
5. The Lawrence-Cedarhurst Fire Department will be hosting a New York State Fire Chiefs Association training seminar titled Dangerous Spaces – Tactics When Dealing with Garage and Basement Fires on November 4th.
6. The South Shore Fire Departments Association's next meeting is scheduled for November 20th at the North Merrick Fire Department.

7. Many Departments have complained about frequent Automatic Alarms. You should contact the Fire Marshal's Office so they can give out summons to these places – provide them with details.
8. There are young kids taking pictures at Emergency scenes. The Fire Marshal's Office is looking into getting credentials for the real photographers – use the yellow caution tape to keep the unofficial photographers out of the scene.
9. There are grants available to install sprinklers for the apparatus floors - there have been 3 fires at local firehouses that started on the apparatus floors.
10. The Nassau County Fire Commission has been interviewing 22 candidates for Fire Marshal Trainee positions. There are 8 spots open now and have promised 8 more after the election.
11. The Nassau Fire Commission has appointed Mike Mennella to the position of Assistant Chief Fire Marshal – congratulations!
12. The Oceanside Fire District is looking to hire full-time EMTs for the day shift and full-time overnight Paramedics.
13. The Locust Valley Fire District is also looking to hire Paramedics.
14. The Long Beach Fire Department is having a Firefighters Exam – application deadline is December 4th at 5:00 PM.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT JON WICKS: was excused for this meeting.
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS DONALD McINTOSH: reported that 35 people signed in.

SECRETARY JUAN BATTA: had no report.

TREASURER STEPHEN GOODMAN: gave the following report:

1. He reported on the financial situation of the Association.
2. He also attended the following:
   A. Nassau County Firefighters Association's Board meeting on September 22nd.
   B. Executive Council of Firematic Associations of Nassau County's meeting on September 24th.
   C. James Interdonati's Testimonial Dinner on October 10th.
   D. Governor Hochul's signing of the Income Tax Credit bill on October 17th.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANTHONY TRIPP: gave the following report:
This month I have turned over to the Treasury the sume of $1,325 in dues. Of the 540 members, 202 have paid their dues this year for a total of $4,040.00.

Department Dues notices will be sent out by the end of October.

Status of the membership:

Dues paying members:	540
Dept/Co. members:	111
Total membership:	651

Members not paid:	338
Dept/Co.'s not paid:	111

He also congratulated Juan Batta, Jon Wicks, and Gerry Presta on their elections to their respective FASNY Officers.

Motion made by Past President Reid, seconded by Past President Kohlmier, and carried to accept the reports of officers.

GOOD & WELFARE:

1. Richard Bilecki reported that there is an interesting article about the Rock Falls Fire Department in Illinois where the Chief of Department and First Assistant Chief lost a lawsuit – people should read the article.
2. Past President Messina reported that Past President Tucholski is currently in rehab after he hurt his knee – please keep him in your prayers.
3. First Vice President Robinson asked to keep Second Vice President Wicks' wife in your prayers as well.

DARK HORSE & 50/50: Sergeant-at-Arms McIntosh reported that we collected a total of $160 for the Dark Horse with 4 $10 prizes and 3 bottles of cheer to be raffled off and $120 to the Association. He also reported that we collected $170 for the 50/50 Raffle with $90 to the winner and $80 to the Association. Tickets were pulled and prizes were handed out.

CLOSING PRAYER: was given by Nassau County Firefighters Association Ladies Auxiliary's Vice President Jane Fahey McGee.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: made by Past President Kohlmier, seconded by Treasurer Goodman, and carried.
TIME: 9:19 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Juan Batta, Secretary