

**FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
137th ANNUAL CONVENTION
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2009 – 9:00 AM

PRESENT: President Thomas J. Cuff, Jr., 1st Vice President David Jacobowitz, 2nd Vice President Joseph Kelly, Secretary Michael D. Whelan, Treasurer Thomas L. Krawczyk, Attorney Edward M. Cooke.

GENERAL CHAIRMAN EDWARD TASE, JR.: Good morning and welcome to Niagara Falls. At this time we would like to have the Colors Posted by the Honor Guard of the Niagara County Sheriff's Department. Please rise.

Colors posted by the Honor Guard of the Niagara County Sheriff's Department.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS JOHN HALEY: Led the assembly in the Pledge to the Flag.

ASSEMBLY: Sang the National Anthem.

CHAIRMAN EDWARD TASE, JR.: Invocation by Reverend Wayne Jagow.

INVOCATION BY CHAPLAIN WAYNE JAGOW: Good Morning. As a FASNY family, since we have last gathered, I think it is appropriate for us to just to remember some of the people that aren't with us right now. Just to name a few, James Wright, Bill Reilly, Bill Hopmeier and Karen Todd. We give thanks to God for their service for all of them. We especially ask that God to be watching over Ed Sendlenski and our past President Ed Carpenter and grant them special healings. As we come together in this very special place and this very special time we pray. Oh Lord and Father of all, allow everyone here their awareness that you are the giver of every good and worthwhile gift and our lives are in your teachings. That our successes and failures are known to you and that your love and concern are limitless. Favor us with your blessings in this proud Association. Be with our leadership, guide and protect us as we continue to serve in our respective communities. Watch over all of us and especially at this time with your presence with your great gift. We give you thanks for all blessings of the past and we all look forward with new dreams and hopes of serving one another as you serve us. In your name, Amen.

CHAIRMAN EDWARD TASE, JR.: First order of business is to announce the fire exits. Up here at the front to the right and left of the stage. The doors we came in the back, please leave in a calm orderly fashion.

Good Morning again, as General Chairman of the 137th Convention of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, I am very proud to welcome you to the Niagara Falls in the County of Niagara. Our Local Committee has worked diligently for well over three years preparing for this Convention, many meetings, many visits and at times hard work. But, today it shows that it was a success by our team. We have with us today my Co-Chairman, Gary Hunt [Applause]. Gary has been a mentor to me, he has done this several times before and said that he was going to retire and turn the reins over to me and has been a great right hand man and lead me to where I am here today as General Chairman and I thank you. We have plenty of things planned for you during the week, if you have any questions our Committee is here, they are all available and ready to work, you can ask them or ask myself and we will take care of it. This morning we have a little short thing here, we have the 1st Annual Youth in the Fire Service Program taking place at the Frontier Fire Station this morning and hopefully that will be a tremendous success in the beginning for the youth in this Association.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

CHAIRMAN EDWARD TASE, JR.: Chairman Tase introduced the following guests and dignitaries from the Niagara Falls area: William McKay, Fire Chief of Niagara Falls. John Chella, Police

Superintendent. William Ross, Chairman of the Niagara County Legislature. James Voutour, Niagara County Sheriff. Wayne Jagow, Niagara County Clerk. James [], Niagara County Fire Coordinator. Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte. Assemblywoman Jane Corwin. Gary Hunt, Chairman of the Niagara County Fire Advisory Board. Paul Burnette, President of Niagara County Volunteer Firemen's Association. All who gave appropriate remarks and then Chairman Tase turned the gavel over to President Thomas Cuff.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Those of you who have other engagements are free to leave if you would like to or you are also free to stay if you would like to, which ever you would like to do.

Good Morning. Sergeant-at-Arms Haley, do we have a Quorum?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS JOHN HALEY: Yes, Mr. President we do have a quorum.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you. I call this session of the 137th Annual Convention of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York to order.

President Cuff introduces 1st Vice President David Jacobowitz for a presentation to the Clarence Center Fire Department, Fire and EMS agencies responding to the Flight 3407 disaster. [Presentation made]

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you, once again to all of these gentlemen and to all the people who participated in this, you really make us proud. At this point I would like to introduce LAFASNY President Valerie Clark, would she come forward and introduce the officers that are with her today.

LAFASNY PRESIDENT VALERIE CLARK: Today I have with me my 1st Vice President Pamela Whittaker and 2nd Vice President Donna Bauer-Hicks. To President Tom and all of our FASNY family, I would like to thank you very much for this invitation to join you for the opening ceremony of your 137th FASNY Convention. LAFASNY looks forward to working shoulder to shoulder with the FASNY officers and all the departments for the enactment of legislation pertaining to the Fire and EMS of New York State. Always remember that we always here and we are only a phone call or an e-mail away. Again, thank you and have a productive 137th Convention. [Applause]

LAFASNY 1st VICE PRESIDENT PAM WHITTAKER: Good morning everyone. On behalf of the ladies, I would like to invite everyone to our Installation on Thursday evening a 7 PM. I hope you have a productive Convention and I hope to see you all Thursday. [Applause]

LAFASNY 2nd VICE PRESIDENT DONNA BAUER-HICKS. Good morning everyone. President Tom, on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, I would like to present you with our 61st Annual Convention Program Journal. [Applause]

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you very much to our ladies. I will add to that very nice invitation to the Installation Dinner on Thursday Evening, my personal invitation to all of our Directors to assist in the participation of LAFASNY, we will see you all there gentlemen.

President Cuff introduced the following fire service guests: Floyd Madison, New York State Fire Administrator. Norman Knapp, President of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs. Thomas With, Secretary/Treasurer of the New York State Fire Council. Kevin Niedermaier, President of the County Fire Coordinators Associations of the State of New York. Paul Napoli, New York State Fire Districts Association. Ross Corser, President of the Volunteer Fire Police Association of the State of New York. All who gave appropriate remarks.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Ok, we have taken care of the guests who are here. We would like to thank you very much for your participation and coming to our Convention. Please stay as long as you would like and enjoy our Convention and if you have other business, you are free to leave the stage or stay here if

you want. Right now Jim Cayey will be reading the proposed Amendments to the FASNY By-Laws that will be voted on on Friday. Will Ed Tase please come up to the stage. Thank you.

JAMES CAYEY: Good morning. My objective here today is to present to you the proposed changes to the by-laws. These are by-law changes that you will be voting on on Friday.

Article III – Board of Directors and Board of Trustees of the Firemen’s Home. I will read what it now in place, what the proposed changes are and how it is going to be presented.

Now Reads:

Section 1. Powers of the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees of the Firemen’s Home 1.2. Management of the Firemen’s Home. The management of the Firemen’s Home shall be vested in the President of the Board of Directors and a Board of Trustees subject to oversight by the Membership and the Board of Directors. The Board of Trustees shall organize by selecting from their number: a President; a Vice-President; and a Secretary. The Board of Trustees shall employ staff necessary for management and oversight of the Home, including, but not limited to: an Administrator and a Comptroller. The Board of Trustees shall prepare and adopt such rules, regulations and procedures defining the duties of its officers; the conduct of its own proceedings; the management and governance of the Firemen’s Home; and, the admission of residents of the Home as they may deem proper, not in conflict with the laws of this State or with the Certificate of Incorporation or By-Laws of this Corporation.

Proposed Change-Article III – Board of Directors and Board of Trustees of the Firemen’s Home. Section 1. Powers of the Board of Directors and Board of Trustees of the Firemen’s Home. 1.2 Management of the Firemen’s Home. The management of the Firemen’s Home shall be vested in the President of the Board of Directors and a Board of Trustees subject to oversight by the Membership and the Board of Directors. The Board of Trustees shall organize by selecting from their number: a President; a Vice-President; and a Secretary. The Board of Trustees shall employ staff necessary for management and oversight of the Home, including, but not limited to: an Administrator and a Comptroller. The Board of Trustees shall prepare and adopt such rules, regulations and procedure defining the duties of its officers; the conduct of its own proceeding; the management and governance of the Firemen’s Home; and the admission of residents of the Home as they may deem proper, not in conflict with the laws of this State or with the Certificate of Incorporation or By-Laws of this Corporation.

Proposed Change to the same Article. Management of the Firemen’s Home. I won’t read that, but I will rather say to you is that this section will remain the same, except in the third sentence the word, “...but not limited to;” and “...and a Comptroller.” Will be eliminated. Thus the sentence will now read “...The Board of Trustees shall employ staff necessary for management and oversight of the Home, including an Administrator. That is the first proposal.

Second proposal:

Article VI Committees, Section 1 now reads:

Section 1. Appointments.

1.1 Standing Committees. The President shall subject to approval of the Board of Directors annually appoint the following standing committees with such responsibilities as the Board of Directors may by resolution decide: an Audition Committee; a Budget and Finance Committee; a Chaplains Committee; an Emergency Medical Services Committee; a Fire Chiefs Committee; a Fire Police Committee; a Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee; a Fire Service Achievement Awards Committee; a Firefighter of the Year Committee; a Hazardous Material and Weapons of Mass Destruction Committee; a Legislative Committee; a Membership Committee; a Public Reactions Committee; a Resolutions Committee; a Two Percent Tax Committee; and a Youth in the Fire Service Committee.

Proposed Change: Section 1.1 will remain the same, but will eliminate “a Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction Committee,” This Committee will be incorporated into the Training and Education Committee which is an ad hoc Committee established by the Board of Directors. That is the second proposal. The proposals will be available to you at the Registration Desk. I will have copies there shortly. That is my report at this time.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you. I would like to call at this time for the adoption of the Minutes of the 2008 Convention of Firemen's Association of the State of New York, which are posted on our website. Do I have a motion?

CHAN RIVERA: Chan Rivera, I make the motion to accept the minutes.

PETER CASEY: Peter Casey, Erie County seconds the motion.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Is there any question on the motion? All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Opposed if any? [None]. Thank you. At this time I would like to introduce the Membership Committee Chair, Ed Tase for the purpose of discussing the proposed increase in the Association dues.

EDWARD TASE: Thank you, President Cuff. Your Association has a Membership Committee that has worked diligently to work to increase and to maintain our membership base of the Association. This year we have held several meetings and conference calls and with the economic times we are proposing to you in the Convention a new dues structure for the Association. This is printed in your Committee Reports which you can pick up in the Secretary's Office in my Annual Report on page 47 for you to review. It will be brought up under a Resolution on Friday for your adoption. The dues structure is very minimal, if you are taking part of our full company membership structure the only increase your department will see is that in the past it used to be five dollars per member that will still remain the same. It also at that time in previous years included a free complimentary organizational membership. Now we will be asking your organizations to pay ten dollars a year. So if you are taking part in this full company membership program, the only increase you are going to see will be ten dollars if your membership base remains the same. If you add more members to your list of course it will go up five dollars per member but overall you are going to see a ten dollar increase there which is very minimal. We would also like to offer our individual dues where we go from ten dollars to fifteen dollars. The youth program presently at three that will be going to five dollars. The youth organization is presently at three that will be going to five dollars. We are also going to be offering to our regular organization if you are not taking part in our full company membership that will be going from twenty dollars to twenty five dollars. We are going to be offering two different multi-year dues structures. At the individual level right now, its three years for twenty five dollars. We are going to change that, the proposed change is a five year program for the amount of sixty dollars. We are also going to offer the individual organizations to take part in a multi-year structure of five years for the amount of one hundred dollars for your organization. Again you will find it on page 47 of your committee reports. If you have any questions though the next couple of days before the resolutions are adopted on Friday, do not hesitate to ask myself or anyone of our membership committee people. Rebecca Franklin is in the back, Rebecca will you stand. Where is Gene Perry? Gene Perry is here, Bill Lennon is present, any questions, John Tucker is floating around here also, and there he is. Any questions these are people you can ask. They will be glad to help you, explain it to you and of course myself. Thank you very much Mr. President.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you. At this time I would like to introduce Vice President Dave Jacobowitz for purpose of the introductions of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Good morning everyone. It is my pleasure to be here today and to have the duty to introduce the elected Officers present and past. From the Board of Directors, please stand and stay standing until and keep your applause until the end, please. President, Thomas J. Cuff, Jr., myself, Vice President. Thomas from Levittown in Nassau and his wife, Jane. 2nd Vice President Joseph Kelly from Walden, Ulster County and his wife, Mary. Immediate past President Michael P. Wutz from Williamsville, from Erie County and his wife, Pat. Directors and these are in alphabetical order, but the senior member who is retiring this year, James A. Ryan, Director for Walden in Ulster County. James

E. Cayey from Colton in St. Lawrence County, Director. Director G. Michael Godfrey from Floral Park in Nassau County. Director Robert McConville from Selden in Suffolk County and his wife, Virginia. Director Brian F. McQueen from Whitesboro in Oneida County. Director Paul R. Oehmler from Williamsville in Erie County and his wife, Ann. Director Michael F. Reid from Merrick in Nassau County and Director David J. Sweet from Penfield in Monroe County. The appointed officers: Michael D. Whelan, Secretary from Fairmont in Onondaga County. Treasurer Thomas L. Krawczyk from Cheektowaga in Erie County. Our CAO David A. Quinn from Rensselaer County. Our Chaplain Reverend Wayne F. Jagow from Lockport in Niagara County. Our Sergeant-at-Arms John Haley from Cazenovia in Madison County. Our Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Winfield Kelsey from Theresa in Jefferson County. Attorney Edward M. Cooke from Monticello in Sullivan County. These are your active Officers and Appointed Officers, ladies and gentlemen. [Applause]

I now also have the honor to review the past Officers. Last night we celebrated the past Presidents Dinner and I think it was an excellent dinner and it was well received and well attended. Once again, Bernie S. Boulio from the year 1970-1972 from National Bridge in Jefferson and Lewis County. Past President Carl A. Veltri from 1986-1988 from Rochester in Monroe County. Past President Kenneth E. Newton from 1990-1992 from Webster in Monroe County. Past President Gerald J. Buckenmeyer from 1994-1996 from Alexander in Genesee County. Past President Gunner Neilson from 1996-1998 from Washington Depot in Connecticut. James H. Williams from 2000-2006 from Norwich in Chenango County. Joseph A. Finnegan from 2002-2004 from Madrid in St. Lawrence County. Past President Michael P. Wutz, 2006-2008 from Williamsville in Erie County.

The past Directors: Richard Beach, 1986-1999 from in Syracuse in Onondaga County. Roy K. Dahlen, 1987-2001 from Merrick in Nassau County. Paul Van Arts Dalen, 1988-1999 from Southampton in Suffolk County. K. William Grant, 1989-2003 from Canton in St. Lawrence County. William A. Nichols, 1995-2005 from Greece in Monroe County. John R. Dugan, Jr., 1996-2006 from Skaneateles in Onondaga County. Gregory S. Turrell, 2000-2007 from Malverne in Nassau County and past appointed officer Sergeant-at-Arms Werner Kraemer, 1987-2000 from Rochester in Monroe County. Did I forget anyone? Ladies and gentlemen, your past officers. [Applause] At this time I would like to call upon Jon Montrose, President of the Trustees to come forward for introductions.

JOHN MONTROSE: I would just like to take a few extra moments here and tell you that this is probably a Convention that I will never forget. Because of the incident that happened here in Erie County in February, yesterday evening I was standing out there looking at that fire truck with all the 911 names on it and probably spent about fifteen minutes looking at it. As I walked back across the road to the hotel there was a young couple sitting there and got up and said thank you for being a volunteer. Think about it guys, you got thanks for a change. Now, back to business to introduce my Board: John Farrell my Vice President from Athens in Greene County. David Blair from Syracuse in Onondaga County. Thomas Mooney, past President from Bolivar in Allegany County. David Wolf from Dansville in Livingston County. Water Geidel from Walton in Delaware County. Carl Steffen from Tupper Lake in Essex County. Bill Murray from West Islip in Suffolk County. David Shultz from East Seneca in Monroe County. Phil Grella from Sea Cliff in Nassau County. Norm Eberle from West Seneca in Erie County. My Secretary Steve Klein from Oceanside in Nassau County. Ted Rosko from Southampton in Suffolk County. Thomas McKinney from Lake George in Warren County. And the guy I always forget, Thomas Cuff, please stand up, he also stands on our Board. Paul O'Brien from Verplank in Westchester County. Would you like to give them a hand? [Applause]

Now, I'm in trouble, because these guys have been sneaking in and out of the room all day long. Gunnar Neilson, past President. Please stand Gunnar. Herbie Thomas was in the room, is he still here? Bob Darling, Artie Lewis, Fritz Neidert, Jim Daley, Jim Farrell, past President, Jose DaRocha, Robert McKinney and all the past Presidents of FASNY please stand, because at one time you stood on this Board. There you are ladies and gentlemen. [Applause] We also have four special guests here, people that you take care of day in and day out all year long with your donations and contributions, would they please stand, Joe Rocco, Bobby Hicks, Vinnie Curds and Billy Rosenhagen. [Applause] I would like to thank Eddie Burnett for being their nurse, chauffer, babysitter or whatever. Eddie, thank you very much. [Applause]

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: At this time I would like to introduce Eddie Tase and the President of the Niagara County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Paul Brunette for the purpose of a presentation.

EDWARD TASE: The Niagara County fire service, three organizations within Niagara County, when they were building the new Home decided that we were going to sponsor a room and furnish it, take care of it and at this time Niagara County would like to present you with your next check of \$1,000. On behalf on the County of Niagara, we thank you very much for all the work you do at the Firemen's Home.

JOHN MONTROSE: Thank you very much. Presented K. William Grant with his honorary Trustee badge.

PRESIDENT CUFF: President Cuff introduces the Keynote Speaker, Jim Juneau, Personal Injury Trial Lawyer. Jim is a Texas board-certified trial lawyer with special expertise in fire apparatus and firefighting equipment.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Vice President Jacobowitz introduces the two winners of the Gerald J. Buckenmeyer FASNY Scholarship, Cory Rivera and Clare C. Yergeau.

JAMES WILLIAMS: Past President James Williams introduces the National Volunteer Fire Council Scholarship winners, Kelly Smith from Williamsville, New York and Brittney Smith from the Bridgeport, New York. [Applause]

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICES

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you and congratulations to the winners. We are now prepared to go into nominations for office. On the outset, I would say that those making the nominations, the actual nominators would they please come up to the stage and make one second for each nominee and other seconds maybe made in the registration office in writing in the book. Please state your name and organization clearly so that it can be heard by the secretary. The first to be recognized is Joseph Kelly for the purpose of nominating the nomination for the Office of Director of FASNY to replace Director James Ryan.

JOSEPH KELLY: Thank you. My name is Joe Kelly and I am representing the Hudson Valley Firemen's Association. President Cuff, Vice President Jacobowitz, fellow officers, Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, Reverend Clergy, past Officers, Ladies Auxiliary, members, delegates and guests. I am very proud and honored to stand before you today to introduce the name of a candidate to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors for a five year term with the retirement of James A. Ryan. Jim has provided this organization outstanding leadership and valued service during his 10 years as a Board member. Thank you, Jim. Although short in stature he leaves a big set of shoes to fill. Hudson Valley feels that Santo, oops, Chan Rivera can more than fill these shoes. I almost made a mistake. Chan told me a story that one time, he ran one time for a Board of Directors and all his posters said Santo Rivera, well he lost the election and couldn't figure out why, because everyone he talked to was going to support him. He ran again the next year under Chan Rivera and won 3-1. So, either Chan Rivera or Santo Rivera he's our candidate. Although Chan has a long list of accomplishments and experience, I would like to mention a few critical ones this morning. Thirty eight years experience as an active firefighter. Chan has attained the position of 1st and 2nd Assistant Chief, awarded Firefighter of the Year in 1995, 1996 and 2002, he has been a Fire Commissioner for 15 years, for the past 5 years he has been Chairman of the Board, he has served as a member and was Vice Chairman of the FASNY Membership Committee and also active in assisting the TE Committee on the road program with registrations and assisting where he could. Past President of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. After 15 years he is still serving as Chairman on the Ulster County Fire Prevention Committee. Chan started this Committee and obtained a \$60,000 grant for the purchase of a County Safety Trailer for Children. He also was responsible for obtaining a library of material as well as robots to assist in delivering the very message of safety. Chan is past President of Hudson Valley, Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Ulster County Chiefs, Ulster County Fire Police and currently Chan is an active member of the Ulster, Orange,

Dutchess and Sullivan Burn Treatment Organizations. On the outside, Chan is a member of the Ellenville Board of Education and a 25 year member of the Elks Club. As you can tell, Chan is a very busy individual and is only able to do this because of the support of his wife, Cindy and son, Corey. You may have heard of Cory name before he is almost made a clean sweep on scholarships this year. Cory will start college in the next week or so beginning his studies in the field of Fire Administration. Oh, yea, I forgot to mention Cory is also an Eagle Scout. I think this is a good sample of some of Chan's qualifications to serve as your next Board of Director. I ask that you give Chan your support and I am proud to put Chan's name as a nominee for Board of Director. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CUFF: The Chair recognizes Delbe Spath.

DELBY SPATH: Delbe Spath, 2nd Vice President of Hudson Valley very proud to second my friend Chan for Trustee of the Board of Directors. Chan calls me Dad, so I have to second the nomination of my son, Chan. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Are there any other nominations for the Office of Director? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Director? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Director? [None]

Is there a motion to close the nominations for the Office of Director?

THOMAS MCKINNEY: I would like to close the nominations for Director.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Tom McKinney, Paul Oehmler. Is there any discussion? [None] All in favor?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Opposed? [None] Thank you. The Chair recognized past Trustee and President James Farrell for the purpose of the nomination for the Office of Trustee of Firemen's Home currently held by Trustee John P. Farrell, Jr.

JAMES FARRELL: Good Morning. Reverend Clergy, honored guests, officers, members and delegates. On behalf of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association, it is my pleasure to nominate John P. Farrell, Jr., for re-election to the Board of Trustees of the Firemen's Home. John was appointed to the Board in 2001 to complete the term of Walter Eck, whose un-timely passing created a vacancy on the board. Since his appointment, John has served the Board with diligence and dignity, earning the respect of not only his fellow Board members, but also of the residents and staff. He has served on many Committees during this time and is currently Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee and is on the Capital Projects, Insurance and By-Laws Committees. John currently holds the position of Vice President of the Board of Trustees and also serves a Secretary of the FASNY Real Estate Holding Company. John began his career in the volunteer service in 1971 when he joined Citizens Hose Company #5 of the Catskill Fire Department where he served as Captain of the Rescue Squad in 1974 and 1975. He then joined the West Athens Lime Street Fire Company in 1977 where he has served as President and Chief of the department. He is currently serving as financial secretary and is a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners. He is a member of the Hudson Valley and Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Associations. He is a past President of Hudson Valley, having served as President in 1999 and is currently serving as Chairman of the Steering Committee. He is also a past President of the Greene County Volunteer Firemen's Association and the Greene County Fire Chiefs Association and has served on the County Fire 911 Committee and is a member of the Green County Fire Police Association. He has also found time to serve the community outside of the fire service by serving on the Town of Athens Zoning Board of Appeals for twelve years, ten of which he served as Chairman and served two terms as Councilman on the Athens Town Board. John and his wife Marilyn have been married for thirty four years and have five children. He is currently employed by Green County serving as Director of Emergency Services. The Hudson Valley and Green County Volunteer Firemen's Associations are extremely proud of John's accomplishment and feel he is well qualified to serve a second term on the Board of Trustees of the Firemen's Home. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CUFF: The Chair will recognize Bob Darling, past Trustee.

ROBERT DARLING: Bob Darling, member of the Catskill Fire Company, it is an honor and a privilege to second the nomination of John Farrell for Trustee of the Firemen's Home.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you, sir. Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Trustee John Farrell, Jr.? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Trustee John Farrell, Jr.? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Trustee John Farrell, Jr.? [None]

I will take a motion to close the nominations.

GREGG TURRELL: I make the motion.

DAVID WOLF: I make the second.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Is there any discussion? [None] All those in favor, please say aye.

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Opposed? [None] Thank you. The Chair recognizes Jim Cayey for the purpose of a nomination for the Office of Trustee of the Firemen's Home currently held by Trustee Carl Steffen.

JAMES CAYEY: Thank you, Mr. President. President Cuff, Vice Presidents Jacobowitz and Kelly, Reverend Clergy, officers, members and friends of FASNY. I am pleased to represent the Northern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association today to nominate our candidate Carl F. Steffen of Tupper Lake, New York for re-election as a Trustee of the Firemen's Home in Hudson, New York. Carl has served his first five years as a Trustee with distinction. His contributions to the operation of the new Firemen's Home have been a tremendous help in its growth over these past five years. Carl continues to learn and grow with the Firemen's Home. His care and concern for the people he serves at the Home has done us all a good turn. Carl resides in Tupper Lake, New York and has been married to Stacy for fifteen years. He has two stepchildren, Marshall and Brooke and two grandchildren, Kaylee Ann and Grant. Carl has worked for the State of New York for twenty eight years. He is employed by the State Office of Mental Health and is posted to the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center in Ogdensburg, New York. His State service has all been within public safety. He has spent 17 years as a Chief of Safety with the Office of Mental Health. Carl has had a lengthy history in the fire service, serving a total of forty years as a volunteer firefighter with twenty one years with the Tupper Lake Fire Department. He has served the Tupper Lake Fire Department in the line offices and three years as Chief. Carl also serves as a Franklin County Deputy Fire Coordinator and has held that position for seventeen years. As a Deputy Fire Coordinator, Carl is an investigator with the County Cause and Origin Team and is also a part-time fire instructor for the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. It is our sincerest belief that Carl has represented with distinction not only the Northern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, but also all of the volunteer fire service of New York has benefitted from his experience. We ask you to join us in support of Carl for his bid for re-election of the position of Trustee of the Firemen's Home. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to place in nomination the name of Mr. Carl F. Steffen for re-election to the position of Trustee of the Firemen's Home. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CUFF: The Chair recognizes Dennis Eickhoff.

DENNIS EICKOFF: I am Dennis Eickhoff, Secretary of Northern; I would second the nomination of Carl for this position.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you. Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Carl F. Steffen? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Carl F. Steffen? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Carl F. Steffen? Hearing none, is there a motion to close the nominations?

PHILLIP GRELLA: Butch Grella, I make the motion that we close the nominations.

THOMAS ARSENAULT: Tom Arsenault, I make the second.

PRESIDENT CUFF: A motion to close has been received. Is there any discussion? [None] All in favor?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Opposed? [None] The Chair recognizes Jim Williams for the purposes of a nomination for the Office of Trustee of the Firemen's Home currently held by Trustee Walter A. Geidel.

JAMES WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good Morning. Reverend Clergy, President Cuff, Vice Presidents Jacobowitz and Kelly, officers and members of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York and guests. I stand before this Convention in a bittersweet moment. I am here to make a nomination for an individual to replace my good friend Jim Wright. Jim was not scheduled to be replaced until next year because his term would not end for another year. Therefore, being here a year in advance causes this bittersweet moment. However, with Jim's premature death this nomination is necessary. Jim knew who his replacement nominee would be and was completely in favor of this nominee. This is a person selected by the Steering Committee of the Central New York Firemen's Association and confirmed by that Association. I would like to present to you FASNY the name of Walter A. Geidel of Walton in Delaware County, New York a quality person who is intelligent, is a leader and is dedicated. The Central New York Firemen's Association early on recognized Walt's abilities as he led their Convention City Committee for a good many years. In addition, Central recommended Walt to FASNY in March of 2009 to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees created by Jim Wright's premature and untimely death. Not only did FASNY accept our recommendation, but had recognized Walt's leadership abilities also early on by naming him a member and later Chair of its Recruitment and Retention Committee. Delaware County recognized these characteristics by naming him as Deputy Fire Coordinator, a member of the Counties Cause and Origin Team and a member of its Haz-Mat Team. While his own Department in recognizing these characteristics named him Chief of the Department, a position he held for five years. In addition, he currently serves the residents of the Walton Fire District as a Fire Commissioner. This thirty-two year veteran volunteer firefighter is a graduate of SUNY Delhi with an AAS degree in Civil Technologies and serves as the Superintendent of Highways for the Town of Walton. Because of the above enumerated characterizes, intelligence, leadership and dedication the Central New York Firemen's Association proudly presents Walter A. Geidel of Walton, Delaware County, New York for a five year position of Trustee of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. Thank you.

PRESIDENT CUFF: The Chair recognizes Charles Skinner, President of Central.

CHARLES SKINNER: Charles Skinner, President of Central, proudly seconds the nomination the Walter Geidel for Home Trustee.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Trustee Walter A. Geidel? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Trustee Walter A. Geidel? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Trustee Walter A. Geidel? Hearing none, is there a motion to close the nominations?

BRIAN MCQUEEN: Mr. President, I make that motion.

GREGORY TURRELL: I second the motion.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Any discussion on the motion? [None] All in favor?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Opposed? [None] Thank you. The Chair recognizes Director Robert McConville for the purpose of a nomination for the Office of Trustee of the Firemen's Home currently held by Trustee William Murray.

ROBERT MCCONVILLE: Thank you, President Cuff. The officers and members of the Suffolk County Firemen's Association are proud to place the name of William Murray of the Bay Shore Volunteer Fire Department in nomination for a five year term as Trustee to the FASNY Firemen's Home in Hudson. William was appointed last August as Trustee when he took over the position from Joseph Esposito. Joseph did an excellent job as Trustee for eight years and we in Suffolk County thank him for his time and dedication he displayed to the residents of the Home in Hudson. William Murray is a forty seven year member of the Bay Shore Volunteer Fire Department serving in numerous offices and being elected Chief of the department in 1987 through 1989. During his volunteer firematic career in Suffolk County, Bill has been involved with many firematic associations. He is past President of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association, past President of the Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council, past President of the Suffolk County Parade and Drill Team Captains Association and past President of the Suffolk County Volunteer Fire Departments Emerald Society. Over the years, Bill has continually brought his leadership and experience to these groups and last year after serving as Sergeant-at-Arms, Bill was elected Second Vice President of the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association. William has been a member and delegate of FASNY since 1980 and served as member of the FASNY Firefighter Games Committee and the FASNY Fire Chiefs Committee. Bill has been an active member of the Bay Shore Fire Department band since 1962. He is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Bay Shore and received the honor of representing them as an aide to the Grand Marshal in the St. Patrick's Day parade held in Manhattan in 1998. He was also honored as "Irishman of the Year" by the Suffolk County Fire Departments Emerald Society in 2004. Bill has been married to his wife, Joan for thirty four years and they have three children. Arthur is currently a ten year member of the Bay Shore Fire Department. Their daughter Jillian is an Iraqi Veteran serving as a nurse and daughter Erin is attending college. The love of Bill and Joan's life at this moment is their two grandsons Matthew and Aiden. On behalf of the officers and members of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association, it is a privilege and personal pleasure to nominate Bill Murray as Trustee to the FASNY Firemen's Home in Hudson for a Five Year Term. We are confident that Bill will do an outstanding job as Trustee. We thank you for your support and as always, God Bless America.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you, Bob. The Chair recognizes Richard Vella.

RICHARD VELLA: President Cuff, Vice Presidents Jacobowitz and Kelly, Board of Directors and Trustees, FASNY delegates and members, I am proud to stand before you today as 1st Vice President of Suffolk County Firemen's Association to second the nomination of William Murray for Trustee of the Firemen's Home.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you. Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Trustee William Murray? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Trustee William Murray? Are there any other nominations for the Office of Trustee currently held by Trustee William Murray? Hearing none, is there a motion to close the nominations for the Office of Trustee?

EUGENE PERRY: Eugene Perry, President of the Suffolk County, closes the nominations.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Motion by Eugene Perry, seconded by Paul Van Arts Dalen. Is there any discussion? [None] All in favor?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Opposed? [None] Motion is carried. Thank you. Thank you for the nominations, we will now have the Report of the FASNY Secretary, Michael D. Whelan.

MICHAEL D. WHELAN: Mr. President, I respectfully request that the Report of the Board of Directors, the Report of the Secretary, the Report of the Treasurer and the Report of the FASNY Foundation be postponed until the beginning of the second session.

PRESIDENT CUFF: One last piece of business and then we will ask Bob McConville to speak on the Convention for 2010. In the mean time we have some announcements. I have been asked by our Secretary to request a motion to accept the Reports of Committees written and oral up to this point.

EDWARD TASE: Ed Tase, Niagara County moves the motion to accept the reports.

CHARLES SKINNER: Charles Skinner, Central New York, seconds.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Is there any discussion? [None] All in favor?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Thank you. Just a couple of announcements while Bob is coming up here. Niagara County has a Hospitality Room in the Crown Ballroom tonight which is in this building from 8-12 pm and everyone is welcome. Two Percent Forum starts at 4 pm not 3 pm. We are having a little technical difficulties, I apologize. While we are waiting, I would like to congratulate the candidates for various offices.

ROBERT MCCONVILLE: President Cuff, on behalf of Suffolk County Convention Committee it is our pleasure to present to you with the Convention pin for the 138th Annual Convention, a nice green hat and a souvenir shirt.

PRESIDENT CUFF: We are going to postpone this because they are having trouble getting the equipment in order. We will be adjourned this session until tomorrow morning. Please remember the sessions that we have this afternoon at 1 pm, J. Gordon Routley, Charleston Sofa Super Store Fire Analysis and at 3 pm, Billy Goldfeder, Firefighter and Fire Officers.

MICHAEL D. WHELAN: Mr. President, Michael D. Whelan, Onondaga County, Secretary of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. I hereby move that the first opening session of the 137th Convention be closed and adjourned.

CHAN RIVERA: Chan Rivera, I second the motion.

PRESIDENT CUFF: All in favor?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

PRESIDENT CUFF: Any opposed? [None] Thank you everybody, thank you for your patience.
Adjourned at 12:10 PM