TIME TO GET READY

RECRUIT NY

ALSO INSIDE:

FASNY Sets 2018 Legislative Agenda
The New York State Cancer Coverage Bill: What You Need to Know
The 3 Biggest Mistakes that Prevent Firefighters from Losing Weight
Teams consist of 5 participants with full turnout gear

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The Volunteer Firefighter
REMINDER:
New Deadline for Submissions to
The Volunteer Firefighter

Please note that submission of stories, photos and other content to be considered for publication are due the 1st of the month before publication. Submissions for the March/April 2018 issue are due February 1, 2018, and on the first of every other month thereafter.

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On behalf of the staff and leadership of FASNY, I hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and are looking forward to a prosperous new year. As we move into 2018, the activity level at FASNY is in high gear with many events in the planning phase.

Your Emergency Medical Services Committee, through the leadership of Meryl Montrose, is working extremely hard to deliver their conference at the Selden Fire Department on Saturday, January 27. Registration will be held at 7:30 a.m., with the Conference starting at 8:00 a.m. There will be a Pre-Conference Workshop on January 26 starting at 8:00 a.m.

On March 2-4, an Emergency Medical Services Seminar will be held at the New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls. Registration will start both days at 7:30 a.m. with a seminar start time of 8:00 a.m. On March 2, there will be a pre-seminar program starting at 7:30 a.m. for registration. Please refer to page 21 for more details about both of these events.

The 2018 Winter Games will be held on February 9-11, at Greek Peak Resort in Cortland. Participating fire companies not only get to enjoy some healthy competition, they also get to participate in some great networking time with departments from across the State. Please refer to www.fasny.com for an application form and full details.

Cancer in the fire service will continue to be an important issue for FASNY in 2018. FASNY and Northwell Health are moving forward to complete the Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Study (see p. 26). Dr. Jacqueline Moline, FASNY Health and Wellness Committee Chair, has been traveling around the State reaching out to the volunteer fire service explaining the critical need for departments to submit data.

This study is the first of its kind in the United States to focus exclusively on cancer affecting volunteer firefighters. The study will evaluate how members of the volunteer fire service in New York State develop cancer and how many have died from it. The information will be invaluable for developing a targeted cancer prevention and detection program that will benefit every volunteer firefighter.

The data that is needed from every department is simple: the name of the firefighter, the address of the firefighter and the date the firefighter entered the service. It is that simple for your fire department to assist us in completing this landmark study. The information supplied by individual fire departments is the only way to do this study and come out with a scientifically valid set of conclusions. The greater the number of participating fire departments, the better the results will be.

The email address that fire companies need to send this information to is fcancerstudy@northwell.edu. FASNY is also working with county fire coordinators to get this request out to all fire districts within their respective counties.

The application deadline for all annual FASNY awards is March 15. These awards include EMS Provider of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Fire Educator of the Year, Fire Service Community Achievement Award, Teacher of the Year and Youth Group of the Year (see p. 66).

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First, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome April Rounds to the FASNY staff. April joined the FASNY family on September 11, bringing her vast experience in the hotel and event industry to the many events and functions we host. When you get the chance to meet her, please take the time to introduce yourself and welcome her to the FASNY family.

“The Professional Volunteer Fire Department,” an interactive presentation with Chief Tom Merrill, is now available. This presentation addresses how members approach their job, how they prepare and train, how they interact with the public, how they take care of their equipment, and, most importantly, how they take care of each other.

The presenter is providing a reduced presentation fee for this three-hour program to any fire department and organization within New York State who would like to host this program.

The host will have direct contact with the presenter for all the logistics. FASNY will help the host with marketing of the date and location through The Volunteer Firefighter and monthly e-newsletter. If you are interested in hosting this program, please send an email to training@fasny.com

Returning in the spring of 2018, FASNY will be offering the second round of Hands-On Training Boot Camp. This three-hour program will provide attendees with the opportunity to practice and learn techniques in roof ventilation, forcible entry and firefighter bailout.

The attendees of last year’s boot camp rated the program with high scores in learning new techniques, instructor’s knowledge and basic skill development. As this article is being written, we are in contact with the instructors setting up the 2018 schedule. If you are interested in hosting a Boot Camp program, please complete the form on the FASNY website under “Training” and forward it to training@fasny.com

As most of you may have already heard, FASNY has changed the 2018 Annual Convention schedule to benefit those individuals not able to attend during the weekdays. New this year, the dates for the Convention in Syracuse will be August 9-12, 2018.

We will be offering educational seminars on Friday, August 10, and Saturday, August 11. We will also offer a four-hour auto extrication Hands-On Training program on the morning of Saturday, August 11.

There will be more information in the next Volunteer Firefighter. If you have any training questions or have seen an inspirational speaker that we might be interested in using at Convention or our seminar series, please email me at training@fasny.com.
Moving FASNY Forward
By Gina Salvato Shultis, FASNY Director of Development

FASNY is proud to offer a high level of training, legislative advocacy, recruitment support, college scholarships and recognition for community service to nearly 100,000 New York volunteer firefighters. In addition, FASNY remains committed to providing a haven for our volunteers in need of skilled medical care at the FASNY Firemen’s Home in Hudson.

As a membership-driven organization, we know there is strength in numbers. An example of this is how we pull together to lobby for legislative causes that support New York’s volunteer fire service, such as with the recently passed presumptive cancer coverage legislation.

However, membership dues alone do not cover the expense of all the programs FASNY offers. For that reason, we must reach out to our members periodically for philanthropic support. This is especially true with regard to providing a high level of compassionate care that fosters dignity and pride to our members who reside at the Firemen’s Home.

As a 501(c)3 not for profit charitable organization, the Home’s $9.7 million operating budget is primarily supported by New York State’s 2% Tax revenue and member-funded contributions and donations.

Any shortfall that remains must be covered by FASNY. Last year, for example, the FASNY Foundation approved an $800,000 grant for the Firemen’s Home to offset its budgetary shortage. Established in 2003, the Foundation’s Board provides stewardship in making grants to effectuate the charitable and exempt activities of FASNY, the FASNY Firemen’s Home and FASNY Museum of Firefighting.

As the new year commences, we gratefully acknowledge the outpouring of donations we received in response to our 2017 Holiday Appeal to benefit the Firemen’s Home members. To date, we have raised 60 percent of our goal.

It’s not too late to support this campaign that will help FASNY provide activities, outings, birthday parties and special holiday events for the resident members at the Home. Donations can be made online at www.fasny.com/give

Another important project, which FASNY is seeking support for, is the new Multi-Purpose Building on the Hudson Campus. When the old pavilions had to be taken down due to structural concerns, the idea to build a handicap-accessible, three-season building became a reality.

Thanks to the generosity of many to seed this project, construction began this summer and is nearly complete. The Home residents and members of the fire service will be able to use this new facility from May through October. There are still several naming opportunities available for anyone wishing to make a lasting gift in honor or memory of an individual, association or department. For more information, please call our Development Office at (800) 232-7692 x722 or email development@fasny.com

Every donation FASNY receives is truly appreciated. On behalf of our leadership and members, we thank you for your consideration in supporting our efforts moving forward.

FASNY is seeking support for the following:

- $1,000 Contributors Memory Plaque (one line)
- $2,500 Contributors Memory Plaque (two lines)
- $10,000 Shared Pillar – Cast Bronze Plaque (18" x 12")
- $25,000 Single Pillar Dedication – Cast Bronze Plaque (18" x 24" with up to two photos)

I wish to pledge $________ over □ 1 year □ 2 years □ 3 years □ 4 years □ 5 years

This gift is made □ in honor of / □ in memory of ____________________________

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Return this form to:
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FASNY’s Development Director will contact you to confirm the wording for the selected plaque and pledge payment options. Thank you for your generosity!

M-MULTI17

www.fasny.com
Membership Corner
By Harrison Breuer, FASNY Member Outreach Coordinator

You can now save money on your next vacation with our newest member benefit, Heroes Vacation Club. This organization partners with hotels and resorts to offer discounts to first responders on stays around the world.

They have a wide range of locations and prices at a deep discount. Please visit the “Member Benefits” section at www.fasny.com to see more details and start booking your next trip today!

By now, all of our Full Company Member departments have received their 2018 dues and well over half of them have already renewed for the year. If you haven't received yours yet, please email me at harrison@fasny.com and I can provide you with an updated copy.

As of December 28, 2017, FASNY’s membership stands at 41,822, an increase of 925 since November 3, 2017.

The Albany Update
By Paul Zuber, FASNY Legislative Representative

The 2018 FASNY Legislative Conference provides our members with the opportunity to discuss, debate and recommend legislation for the upcoming 2018 New York State legislative session. Once again, through the hard work of the FASNY Legislative Committee led by Robin Schott, FASNY has created a strong list of bills to advocate on behalf of the volunteer service.

As with the last several years, our goal has been to keep a limited number of bills on the FASNY Scorecard. This does not mean that we will not track or advocate for other bills important to the volunteer fire service. Instead, our goal by keeping the list succinct is to allow us to effectively advocate on your behalf.

A small agenda allows us to focus the Assembly members and Senators on our most important bills. As bills get passed and come off the Scorecard, they can and will be replaced with other important bills to the fire service. Likewise, if an issue arises that precipitates the need to move a bill to the Scorecard, that flexibility exists as well.

A case in point as to the flexibility of our Scorecard can be found with the recent addition of the school fire inspection legislation to the Scorecard. This bill would propose a modernization process of conducting fire inspections for school. Although the bill is not perfect, we at FASNY believe we can work closely with the New York State Legislature to improve the current system.

Ideally, the perfect solution would be to utilize the Office of Fire Protection Control (OFPC) to handle all of these inspections as they do with colleges. This would create an efficient and unbiased process with the best interest of our children at the core of the process. But, that is not the reality for a State that faces a $4.5 billion budget shortfall. Presently, all state agencies are expected to be budgeted at 0 percent growth, so any added burden on OFPC is not feasible in this economic climate.

Therefore, we have to look strongly at changes that can be made to protect our children especially in light of State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli’s letter to the State Education Department concerning their oversight of school fire safety compliance. Although the report states that the Education Department has improved in the implementation of many of the suggested changes from the Comptroller’s initial review in 2016, there is still work to be done. That is why this bill has moved to the Scorecard as it is clear there is an ongoing problem that we must address.

So, as we approach 2018, we are armed-and-ready to push forward an aggressive agenda that is designed to help our volunteer firefighters, their families and the general public.

There will be battles large and small this year. The largest will be our efforts to pass legislation that would allow our volunteer fire departments to bill for EMS services. In many regards, this bill should be a no-brainer and one that makes simple sense as our local fire departments are stretched thin trying to provide these services. It also should be a no brainer because it is what the public expects. It is clear if you told the general public that they did not have the EMS services that they expect and is paid as part of their insurance premiums, most of whom would be shocked.

But unfortunately, we must continue to educate the legislature on this issue and push back against private interest seeking to stop the bill. Like the Cancer Bill, we will be calling on your help to pass this important piece of legislation.

Ready, set, go! The legislative year is about to start and you can keep updated on our Scorecard by going to the FASNY website at www.fasny.com/legislation/scorecard
A different way to invest your Length of Service Awards funds

The structure of the VFIS® HeroPlus℠ LOSAP program brings together a suite of services from several different providers into a single offering to help manage administration costs and offer investment flexibility for plan sponsors. The program can be customized at the local level to meet the specific needs of the plan sponsor, without having to amend the plan document.

To learn more - please give us a call

Frank Gusmano, LFA
Melville, NY 11747
631-227-0626
Frank.Gusmano@lfg.com

Keith Brandstedter, VFIS
York, PA 17405
717-741-7473
KBrandstedter@vfis.com

The HEROPLUS Program, offered by VFIS and Lincoln Financial Group is available in all 50 states.
I’m sure you remember Doug Staley, longtime member and supporter of your organization, who died of a liver and bile duct cancer in 2009.

Doug was a lifetime volunteer firefighter, starting when he was in his teens and continuing to his death at 61. He served in Cortland County, first in the Homer and then the Cortlandville Fire District, building on basic skills, going to classes and eventually serving in many local fire service officer capacities: District Commissioner, statewide office for FASNY, and IOC Rep.

He also was trained for and involved with fire investigation/arson investigation. He truly was defined by his fire service and his death was not only a blow to his family, but a great loss of a dedicated, educated “fireman.”

His diagnosis in April 2009 with his incredibly destructive and aggressive liver/bile duct cancer came almost out of the blue. It was not unexpected, however, if you consider that when he started his service and the significant time during its duration when there was little, if any, effective protection provided to firemen against environmental and chemical contaminants all you “older” guys were exposed to in the ’50s, ’60s and ’70s. His death in June 2009, just three months after diagnosis confirmation, was devastating.

In those three months, we accumulated over $25,000 (closer to $40,000) in medical bills. Thanks to God and my job BlueCross/BlueShield coverage, my costs ended up less than $2,000 or so. I have no idea how members of FASNY without any coverage would have coped. I’d probably have gone through bankruptcy and still be paying for his treatments, medicines, hospital and doctor bills.

In any case, this Volunteer Firefighter Gap Coverage Cancer Disabilities Benefits Act is an incredibly important piece of legislation, and you and your entire team are to be applauded for taking the time all these years to research, introduce, follow-up, push, etc. to get it passed.

I’m glad I’m here to thank you. I wish Doug was here to thank you. I’m sure he’s also watching and applauding.

– Deborah Amidon-Staley, Canton
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On the last weekend in April each year, fire departments across New York State open their doors to the community and invite in anyone who might be interested joining their ranks. Firefighters work hard to show all the benefits of volunteering to make this event a success.

The Whitesboro Fire Department held a chicken barbecue as a way to draw in prospective members and their families. While people were enjoying a good meal and the company of friends and neighbors, they could explore all that being a member of the fire department could offer them.

Utilizing the excellent resources found on FASNY’s RecruitNY website at www.recruitny.org, department members created customized posters, informational flyers, banners to advertise the event and videos to show the scope of services provided by the department.

The department had many different types of equipment and apparatus displayed along with members to explain what each was used for. The aerial truck was opened up along with two engines – each having their own functions in responding to an emergency call.

People were able to watch demonstrations of fire extinguisher training on a Bullex trainer and were even encouraged to try it themselves. There were also tours of the firehouse.

With all of the information, demonstrations and openness of our members, the Whitesboro Fire Department was able to get five applications for membership that day.

While recruitment is certainly an important aspect, we cannot forget the need to keep the members that we already have. Together, we have to develop new strategies for retention of our firehouse family.

We need to listen to what they say, reach out to help them when they need it and make them understand that the role they fill in the community is a very important one. From the moment a person shows interest in being a member of a department, and through the initial experiences that they have working, they must be shown a positive environment in which they can grow, learn and feel like they are making a difference.

FASNY is here to help departments. We are all facing the same challenges with recruitment and retention. As a group, we need to share with each other what does and does not work. We need to communicate to ensure that fire departments continue to be successful parts of communities across the state.

RecruitNY Weekend, April 28-29, is a great opportunity to do so.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to your fellow fire departments or visit www.recruitny.org for valuable resources to help our firefighting family grow and thrive.

Good luck!
Tips for Your RECRUITNY Open House

Plan activities to provide both education and a hands-on experience that will stimulate interest in your visitors.

- Direct a handline with another member.
- Show an extinguisher technique using a Bullex system.
- Review components of the turnout gear and SCBA.
- Demonstrate the jaws of life.
- Have displays (fire police, etc.) showing their important role in the fire service.
- Have people experience what it's like to perform CPR chest compression techniques.
- Host an electronic recycling event during your open house, which will draw plenty of traffic and can double as a fundraising opportunity.

Get more tips and promotional materials at www.recruitny.org

OPEN YOUR DOORS!
RecruitNY Weekend
April 28-29, 2018
The 2017 Legislative Conference was on November 4 and 5 this year. Sunday’s final program had an announced attendance of 266.

The Legislative Committee came in on Friday night and met with the FASNY Legislative Representatives from Albany Strategic Advisors (ASA) to discuss the 19 submitted items for the 2018 FASNY Agenda.

Saturday morning the Legislative Committee, ASA representatives and the Sectional Legislative Chairs met to discuss each item. The Sectionals each had a caucus on Saturday afternoon to discuss each proposed item.

Then, on Saturday night, the Legislative Committee, ASA representatives and the Sectional Chairs met again to discuss the issues. It had been decided to keep the FASNY Agenda to eight to 10 items so that the Legislators will focus on a smaller list and hopefully pass more of our agenda.

We can always add new items as other items pass. After much discussion, and with the help of the Sectional leaders, we were able to condense the agenda from 19 items down to six along with considerations for the State budget.

President Kenneth Pienkowski opened the 84th Annual Legislative Conference Sunday morning. Sergeant-at-Arms Donald J. Farrell led us in the pledge to the flag and the Reverend Samuel P. Lundy gave his usual great invocation. First Vice President Steven E. Klein did the introduction of the guests as well as FASNY Officers, Directors and Past Officers. The FASNY Home Board of Trustees President David F. Schmidt introduced the current and past Home Trustees.

The FASNY Golden Trumpet Award was presented to cancer survivor, advocate and Past FASNY Director Brian F. McQueen. He was led to the dais by members from Oneida County and presented his award by President Pienkowski.

Director McQueen traveled from one end of the State to the other meeting with Legislators and appearing at press conferences. Without his tireless efforts and ideas, the Volunteer Firefighter Gap Coverage Cancer Disability Benefits Act would not have been signed into law by the Governor.

FASNY Second Vice President John P. Farrell, Jr. introduced Richard Easterly for a presentation from Colonial Voluntary Benefits, which sponsored the Legislative Conference.

Vice President Farrell introduced Gabriel Deyo from the New York State Controller Office, who spoke about audits that his office does for the volunteer fire service.

FASNY Legislative Chair Robin Schott and his Committee submitted the 2018 FASNY Legislative Agenda to the body for adoption. The following items were chosen by the body and submitted to the FASNY Board of Directors for final approval.

- Upholstered Furniture Fire Safety Standards
- Amend the Penal Code to Add Endangering the Welfare of First Responders
- VFBL/VAWBL Increase for Partial Permanent Disability
- The Fair Play Ambulance Cost Recovery for Fire Departments
- Require Prompt Payment of VFBL Death Benefit
- Sales Tax Exemption for Home Life Safety Products

Budget issues include Increased Income Tax Credit, Training Dollars, 911 Funding, Low Interest Loan Funding and Funding for the Training Book.

A presentation was made by President Pienkowski to the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, funded by the proceeds from the Michael D. Whelan Walk in the Park at the FASNY Convention.

President Pienkowski also presented a check to the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial Committee, which were funded from the Fourth Annual FASNY Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament at Convention.

The Rev. Canon Samuel P. Lundy closed the 84th Annual Legislative conference with the benediction.
FASNY Sets 2018 Legislative Agenda

By Robin Schott, FASNY Legislative Committee Chair

President Kenneth Pienkowski
First Vice President Steven E. Klein
Second Vice President John P. Farrell, Jr.

Richard Easterly of Colonial Voluntary Benefits
FASNY Chief Administrative Officer David A. Quinn
FASNY Legislative Committee Chair Robin Schott
Gabriel Deyo of the New York State Controller Office

Continued on next page.
FASNY concluded the 84th Annual Legislative Conference in Albany by passing a legislative agenda containing six items for the 2018 legislative session. To promote the new legislative agenda, FASNY is continuing its Legislative Outreach Program.

The program was started in 2008 and has been extremely helpful for FASNY members to learn more about our legislative issues at the local level.

The primary focus of the program will continue to be educational meetings related to legislation affecting the volunteer fire service. The meetings last anywhere from 60 to 90 minutes and cover the FASNY Legislative Agenda as well as issues of interest to the Sectionals.

Paul Zuber or Daniel Cain from Albany Strategic Advisors, FASNY’s Legislative Representatives, will be on hand along with FASNY Legislative Committee members to facilitate the program. State Legislators often attend to comment and listen.

FASNY Legislative Outreach Program 2018

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For more information on the program, contact FASNY’s Legislative Representative Paul Zuber at paul_zuber@asagovtaffairs.com or Robin Schott, FASNY Legislative Chairman, at (585) 370-2887 or schottr50@aol.com

Please check the FASNY website for further updates on times and locations.
The FASNY Golden Trumpet Award is given to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional support and assistance to the volunteer fire service. Historically, this award has been given to New York State Legislators, government officials and notable public figures.

Past winners include U.S. Representative Sherwood Boehlert, State Assemblyman Michael Bragman, State Chief Judge Lawrence H. Cooke, internationally recognized writer Kurt Vonnegut, U.S. Senator Alphonse D’Amato, State Senator Dale Volker, FASNY Legislative Committee Co-Chair Robert “Bobby” Knight, State Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and last year’s winner, State Senator Joseph Griffo. The award has been presented 19 times in the last 27 years.

This year, FASNY is proud to announce that Mr. Brian F. McQueen, a cancer survivor and fire service advocate, is the 2017 Golden Trumpet Award winner.

Brian and his wife, Sarah, live in Whitesboro and have a son, Ryan, and daughter-in-law, Erin. Brian has served as Chief of the Whitesboro Volunteer Fire Co. He is currently Vice President of the Central New York Firemen’s Association, Past President of the Oneida County Firemen’s Association, Past President of the Oneida County Fire Chief’s Association and Past Oneida County Fire Coordinator. He currently serves on the Education Committee of the National Fire Protection Agency and was recently elected to the National Volunteer Fire Council Executive Board.

Brian has a degree in elementary education from Daemen College in Buffalo and a certificate of advanced studies from SUNY Cortland. He has been a teacher, principal and director of information technology in the Whitesboro School District.

Brian has been a very active member of FASNY, serving on various Committees and as a Director for over 10 years.

Brian is the guy who goes above and beyond. Previously, he has won an award from the NVFC for Excellence in Fire Prevention. He was named the Whitesboro Fire Department’s Firefighter of the Year in 1993 and 2015. Brian received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Daemen College in 2003 and the Knights of Columbus Humanitarian Award for fire and life safety work across New York State in 2004. He was a Distinguished New York State Principal of the Year and National Distinguished Principal of the Year in 2005, when he also received the NYSCATE Technology Award for leadership in New York State and the Whitesboro American Legion Community Citizen Award. More recently, he was named to the Oneida County Class of Living Legends for his work with cancer and education.

Brian has been instrumental in the passage of the long-fought-for expanded cancer coverage bill. Brian has been a tireless asset to the FASNY Legislative Committee in researching cancer laws from other states and traveling across New York State to attend press conferences. He’s made many trips to Albany and local legislative offices to gain support for this bill. Every time we ran into a stumbling block with the bill, he would present another solution or another way to get this legislation. He stressed we must get something and build on it from there.

Brian is also the co-founder of the Believe 271 Foundation, formed to assist volunteer firefighters battling cancer. He created an education program on firefighter cancer and has instructed over 4,000 firefighters from Maine to Texas. He wrote and published a book You Gotta Believe, which is dedicated to those volunteer firefighters battling cancer. He recently wrote and received a grant from Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi to implement a second-hood policy in Oneida and Herkimer Counties.

Brian’s resume is eight pages long and it shows that he is a true leader and innovator in anything he gets involved with in his life. It is great pride that the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York presents the Golden Trumpet Award to our friend and fellow firefighter Brian F. McQueen.
On October 22, 2017, Governor Cuomo signed a bill that will provide volunteer firefighters with financial support to cover out-of-pocket expenses and lost wages in the event they are diagnosed with certain cancers that can be linked to their firefighting duties.

The signing of the Volunteer Firefighter Gap Coverage Cancer Disability Benefits Act, as it is officially known, was the culmination of more than four years of FASNY efforts to create the bill and make it law. In preparation for the 2019 effective date, FASNY has compiled answers to some frequently asked questions about the law.

If you have questions, please call (800) 2FASNY2 or email fasny@fasny.com

Q: What is the purpose of Assembly Bill 711B/Senate Bill 1411B?

A: It provides volunteer firefighters with monetary assistance in the event they are diagnosed with cancer. This is a less expensive alternative to providing VFBL/Worker’s Compensation coverage for those believed to have contracted cancer from firefighting.

There was an initial estimate of a 150 percent increase in VFBL costs if coverage was provided under workers’ compensation. Thus, many self-insured counties had stated the extreme cost increase would force them to drop VFBL from their worker’s compensation pool.

Furthermore, data from states with VFBL coverage, such as Pennsylvania, showed that more than half the claims are denied as insurers aggressively challenged these claims. Thus, the New York State Assembly and Senate worked with the fire service and the localities to craft a bill which would provide extensive coverage but meet the threshold cost needs of the localities.

Q: What are the benefits provided under the legislation?

A: There are three separate benefits, which are independent of each other:

1) The lump-sum benefit provides a payout for a diagnosis of cancer based on the severity of the diagnosis. For less severe forms of cancer, there is a lump sum payment of $6,250. If the cancer is more severe based on the guidelines of the bill, there will be a lump sum payment of $25,000.

This lump sum payment is drawn from a pool of $50,000 per firefighter, which will be available if there is more than one negative diagnosis over the volunteer firefighter’s lifetime.

2) If the volunteer firefighter becomes totally disabled, the volunteer firefighter will be eligible for a monthly benefit of $1,500, payable up to 36 consecutive monthly payments.

3) In case of death, volunteer firefighter families will be eligible for an accidental death benefit in the amount of $50,000. These benefits will not be subject to New York State income tax.

Q: Is this benefit available to all volunteer firefighters?

A: A volunteer firefighter will be eligible for the enhanced cancer disability benefit if the following three criteria are met:

1) The volunteer has served for at least five years as an interior firefighter as evidenced by completing a mask fit test which is required of all volunteer firefighters with an interior firefighter rating;

2) Upon entrance into the volunteer service, the volunteer firefighter successfully passed a physical examination; and

3) The volunteer firefighter has a disease caused by an uncontrollable division of abnormal cells in any part of the body or a malignant growth or tumor affecting the lymphatic or hematological systems or digestive, urinary, prostate, neurological, breast or reproductive systems, or melanoma.

Q: Why does the legislation only cover interior firefighters with at least five years of active interior firefighting service?

A: First, when addressing the cancer legislation with policy staff in the Assembly, the issue of a study focusing solely on volunteer firefighters was raised. Although there have been numerous studies relating cancer to firefighting, those studies have only addressed the relationship between career firefighters, who are all interior-rated, and cancer.

The policy staff expressed concerns that if the position of the volunteer fire service was to have the same status as career firefighters, the bill should be narrowly tailored to mirror the coverage provided to career firefighters.

Secondly, working with leading experts on occupational cancer, it was determined that exposure to a toxin would generally take at least five years before a blood form of cancer would be diagnosed. These two issues resulted in the bill being more narrowly tailored to mirror the career firefighter provisions and to meet the likely health issues associated with cancer and firefighting.
Q: Does the bill cover me through my entire volunteer service or just when I serve as an interior firefighter?
A: As long as you meet the requirements of the bill as of the effective date of January 1, 2019, you are covered under this bill for your entire length of volunteer service.

Once you disengage from the volunteer service, the coverage will stay with you for up to five years after service. After five years, the volunteer has the option of keeping coverage by paying the premiums associated with the disability insurance.

Again, this mirrors the career disability benefits, as they are able to keep their benefits for two years after they disengage from service.

Q: Do I have to prove that I got cancer from firefighting?
A: There is no requirement that a volunteer prove he was in contact with a specific carcinogen. It is assumed from the cited studies that show interior firefighters are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer. No further proof is needed other than proof of cancer.

Therefore, a volunteer who meets the eligibility requirements only needs to provide proof of diagnosis by a board-certified physician in the medical specialty appropriate for the type of cancer diagnosed.

This information must then be submitted to the insurance carrier. Also, unlike the VFBL, your claim cannot be challenged.

Q: How do I know if I am eligible for the $25,000 or $6,250 payment?
A: These payments are based on the severity of the cancer, which must be shown by evidence from a board-certified doctor in that type of cancer. For a serious form of cancer, which would allow for the $25,000 payment, there must be proof of one or more malignant tumors characterized by uncontrollable and abnormal growth and the spread of malignant cells with invasion of normal tissue and that either:

1) There is metastasis and surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy is medically necessary; or

2) There is a tumor of the prostate, provided that it is treated with radical prostatectomy or external beam therapy; or

3) The firefighter has terminal cancer, his or her life expectancy is 24 months or less from the date of diagnosis, and will not benefit from, or has exhausted, curative therapy.

It should be noted that when this legislative language was crafted, experts in the field of occupational health were consulted as to the proper guidelines for severe and non-severe forms of cancer.

Q: Is the bill retroactive?
A: No, the bill is not retroactive. Since the protections are backed by disability insurance coverage, it will only cover those events that have yet to occur.

As we know, insurance does not pay for acts which have already occurred before receiving coverage. But, prior to 2019, active interior firefighter status will count towards the law’s five years of interior status requirement.

Thus, the clock does not start to tick for the volunteer’s ability to meet the five-year requirement when the bill is effective. For example, a volunteer who has three years of interior service prior to the effective date would only need to have two more years in order to meet the requirements of the bill.

Q: Why is the effective date January 1, 2019?
A: The bill was designed to allow the insurance market to develop in order to provide more choice to fire departments who buy insurance coverage. The later effective date will also allow the State of New York to further assess the cost if there are dramatic changes in the insurance market. Presently, we are aware of four major insurance providers who will likely write policies based on this legislation.

Q: Who pays for this disability coverage and how much will it cost?
A: The bill would require any fire district, department or company to provide and maintain an enhanced cancer disability benefit insurance program for each eligible volunteer firefighter.

A similar bill was passed in Georgia and the cost estimates of that bill are $300 per firefighter for the required benefits. Since New York State has a larger pool of eligible firefighters, there is an assumption that costs will be no more than the $300 per year/per firefighter presently estimated for coverage in Georgia.

Q: Does the bill have reporting requirements?
A: Yes, the bill requires that any fire district, department or company whose member has received a disability payment under the provisions of this act to report such payments to the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The purpose of this section is to provide the fire service with further documented data as to the number of volunteer firefighters diagnosed with cancer. This will allow FASNY to review such incidents for future legislative action.
FASNY is once again working to help the volunteer fire service of New York State, meeting with the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) in November.

FASNY CAO David A. Quinn, Secretary John S. D’Alessandro and FASNY Legislative Representative Paul Zuber were on hand as the two associations discussed issues of importance to the volunteer fire service. Topics covered included recruitment and retention, shared services, group purchasing and strategizing on how to provide cost-effective cancer coverage to fire departments statewide now that the cancer legislation has been signed into law.

CAO Quinn also presented a FASNY Challenge Coin to NYSAC Executive Director Steve Acquario and Deputy Director Mark Lavigne.

NEW DATE:
146TH ANNUAL FASNY CONVENTION
AUGUST 9-12, 2018
Syracuse, NY
Hands-On Training • Training Forums • Special Events
Look for schedule updates and registration information at www.fasny.com
Selden EMS Conference

Selden Fire Department
44 Woodmere Place, Selden, NY
Registration 7:30 a.m. • Conference starts at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 27, 2018

The State of Emergency Medical Services in New York State
Presentation by Bureau of EMS, NYS Department of Health and NYSEMS Council

Huffin’ and Puffin’: Pulmonary Assessment Essentials

Trauma: What’s Hot and What’s Not?
Presented by: Connie Mattera, M.S., R.N., TNS, EMT-P

You as a Firefighter and Cancer
Presented by: Mahlon Irish, Jr., Retired Lieutenant

What Kind of an EMT Do You Want to Be?
Presented by: Dan Batsie, EMT-P

Come a day early and attend the Pre-Conference Workshop
January 26, 2018, at the Selden Fire Department
Registration at 7:30 a.m. Pre-Conference starts at 8:00 a.m.

Ems Training - Sign Up Now!

Selden EMS Conference

New York State EMS Seminar

Saturday-Sunday, March 3-4, 2018

New York State Fire Academy
600 College Ave., Montour Falls, NY 14865
Registration 7:30 a.m. • Conference starts at 8:00 a.m.

The State of Emergency Medical Services in New York State
Presentation by Bureau of EMS, NYS Department of Health and NYSEMS Council

You as a Firefighter and Cancer
Presented by: Mahlon Irish, Jr., Retired Lieutenant

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Trauma: What’s Hot and What’s Not?
Presented by: Connie Mattera, M.S., R.N., TNS, EMT-P

Can We Talk? EMS Patient Communications in the Age of Social Media

Sacred Cows Make the Best Steaks: EMS Myths and Legends
Presented by: Paul Werfel, NREMT-P

Come a day early and attend the Pre-Seminar Workshop
Friday, March 2, 2018, at the NYS Fire Academy, Montour Falls
Registration at 7:30 a.m. Pre-Seminar starts at 8:00 a.m.

Visit www.fasny.com to download registration forms.
IT’S NOT ABOUT THE DONUTS, PART 2: REWRITING YOUR ‘SOLUTIONS’ FOR THE NEW YEAR

By Kelli LaPage, MS, ATC, LAH, FASNY Health and Wellness Committee

A new year is upon us and with all of its promises for a new beginning comes a time of reflection for many of us, and a desire to start anew in 2018.

Every year, millions of people ring in the new year as they have every other December 31st – sipping champagne, watching the ball drop on TV, maybe with loved ones or maybe alone in the living room.

And in those 10 seconds that ball takes to drop to its base … our minds race with plans and goals and dreams for what the new year will bring. This year I will lose weight … This year I will get a raise … This year I will find the person to share my life with … This year I will be happy.…

Rarely in those 10 seconds do we pause and consider what the new year is all about. Yes, it is a new beginning, a fresh start, a new chance. But, more importantly, it is a time to reflect on the lessons of the year gone by. Because, remember, you started last year with the same degree of optimism, hope and vigor as you will this year.

Did you achieve your goals? Did you achieve happiness? Did all of your problems vanish?

The truth is that despite all of your well-meaning intentions, probably not. That is the pattern for most of us every year. This year, instead of proclaiming lofty resolutions that will be forgotten come spring, commit to a new journey to support a healthier, happier you, one small step at a time. Look for solutions … not resolutions.

In order to implement a solution, you must first understand your goal – what is truly important to you.

In the last issue of The Volunteer Firefighter, we discussed becoming clear around three questions:

1) What is important to me?
2) What do I want (what outcome am I seeking)?
3) What actions can I take to move closer to what I want and what is important?

A resolution is arbitrary, out there somewhere … not real. It looks good on paper, but rarely aligns actions to what is truly important to us at our core. When considering a solution, you look at the root cause.

That is the harder course of action. We don’t want to address why we are overweight, why we are tired all the time or why we are unhappy. We just want a quick fix.

It is easier to state “I will lose weight this year” than to say, “I will stop putting myself last on my list of priorities, thereby giving myself permission to take care of myself by taking time to work out every day and make the appropriate eating choices.” It is easier to say, “I will stop drinking this year” or “I will quit smoking this year” than to say, “I will address the issues that make me unhappy and unsatisfied in my life and find positive coping mechanisms that will make me feel good about myself.” And on and on.

Resolutions cause us to ignore the root cause of our “issues.” Solutions force us to look them smack in the face, stare them down and overcome them.

That is what I wish for each and every one of us in 2018. The strength to look with an honest mind and an open heart at why we are where we are. Why we have the weight problem, why we are always tired, why we drink, why we smoke, why we yell at our loved ones.

And then, begin to write our own solution(s) that will reduce or resolve those behaviors and align with what is important to us. What we want in our lives and who we truly want to be.

We cannot control everything in our lives. We can’t control our bosses, our families, our friends. We can’t control the economy, the housing market or the weather. But, we can control our actions and reactions, our behavior and our state of mind. That is what new year’s solutions are all about.

So, Happy New Year – and may this be the year that leads you to new and sustainable solutions.
Losing weight can be really hard, especially for firefighters. With all the misinformation and nutrition myths out there, it's no wonder people are confused. Here are three big mistakes I've observed throughout my work helping thousands of firefighters to lose weight.

Mistake No. 1: Dieting

Yep. If you set out to lose weight by temporarily “dieting” – eating less food and/or eating different foods than you plan to once you’re done with your diet – you will not lose weight.

Every size body requires a certain number of calories to sustain. If you’re my size, you require about 2,400 calories a day. If I had less mass, let's say I was much shorter, I might require only 2,000 calories per day. So you can see if you cut calories to get down to a certain size, you have to continue to eat that number of calories to maintain that size.

If your plan is to temporarily eat certain foods (like a diet program where you buy their food) or plan to severely cut back on calories for a bit, that won’t work. As soon as you go back to eating what you ate before, you’ll get back to the size that you were before.

Really, the worst thing you can do is yo-yo like this. Because when you lose weight, it’s typically about 25 percent lean mass. Once you gain it back, it’s all fat. So each time you lose weight and put it back on, your body fat percentage gets higher.

Mistake No. 2: Forbidding Certain Foods

Although it seems counterintuitive, if you have a no tolerance policy toward any unhealthy foods – and I am talking about the things you really like – you may be doing yourself more harm than good.

Research shows that when people give in and eat a food that they were trying to avoid, they feel bad and that starts a spiral that is more likely to end in the person giving up altogether. So you want to give yourself a little leeway. Don’t set yourself up for failure.

If you do have that ice cream that someone brought to the fire station, focus on just having a smaller portion than usual. Make sure you savor it (don’t do something that takes your mind off what you’re eating) and don’t feel bad about it.

One caveat: this really only applies to unhealthy foods that you love. One problem that I see with firefighters at the station is eating a treat simply because it’s there.

Before eating it, ask yourself if it's really worth it. A donut has about 200 calories. Your half hour workout might only burn 200 calories. If you could take it or leave it, then leave it!

This is a tough balance because you only want to eat something if you’re really jonesing for it. But if you do, don't send yourself down the shame spiral. Pat yourself on the back for all the healthy eating you’ve been doing and don’t see this as a setback.

Mistake No. 3: Not Getting Enough Sleep

Obviously this is a big problem for firefighters. Lack of sleep has been shown to both cause weight gain and impede weight loss efforts.

The likely reason is because your body turns up your hunger sense when you're tired. Without enough sleep, your body senses that you’re low on energy. If you’re energy-deficient then you must need more fuel, and that means more calories. It essentially kicks your hunger into overdrive.

This is why you feel like a bottomless pit when you’re tired.

Getting more sleep alone could help you lose weight – and then there are the positive side effects of feeling better, looking better and being healthier!

If you find yourself sleep-deprived, remind yourself that the hunger isn’t because you actually need the calories, your body just thinks you do. What you need is sleep.

When I’m sleep deprived and feeling famished all day, I’ve found that (second to taking a nap) doing something to get my heart rate up helps to get rid of those misguided hunger signals.

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Dr. Karlie Moore has been providing wellness programs to fire departments since 2008. She conducts hundreds of firefighter fitness tests per year and provides online education to firefighters about nutrition, exercise, weight loss, heart health and back health at www.fitfordutyconsulting.com. Dr. Moore has a Ph.D. in Exercise Science and Nutrition from Oregon State University and she specializes in firefighter health. More information about Dr. Moore’s wellness and weight loss programs, along with free health tips for firefighters, visit www.fitfordutyconsulting.com
It is with great pleasure that I get the opportunity to assist in rolling out a new position statement from the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). The NVFC’s mission is to provide a unified voice for volunteer fire and EMS organizations, and they always work to be on the front lines of supporting firefighter health and safety. The NVFC has taken on many positions and programs relating to firefighter health and safety, such as smoking cessation, the Heart-Healthy Firefighter Program, and the Share the Load™ behavioral health program. They have been on the forefront of pushing volunteer fire and EMS organizations into getting their members annual medical evaluations. The introduction of the NVFC’s latest position to support and educate the emergency services on diabetes falls right in line with the goals and objectives of those initiatives.

Why is diabetes support and education so important? To answer that question, you need a little background on diabetes. Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic disease characterized by the inability to use glucose (sugar) effectively due to deficiencies or resistance to insulin. It is a situation that responders deal with on a regular basis when responding to diabetic medical emergency calls.

Diabetes contributes to a number of other diseases including heart disease, eye complications, kidney disease, neuropathy, foot problems, skin complications and dental disease. The American Diabetes Association states that almost 30 million children and adults have diabetes, and 86 million more are pre-diabetic in the U.S. today. That equates to 9 percent of Americans in our country who currently have diabetes. Odds are one out of every 10 members of your department will be afflicted with the disease at some point in their life. That is why it is so important.

Why does it matter to the NVFC? It’s important to the NVFC because one out of every five line-of-duty coronary heart disease (CHD) events occurred in a person suffering from diabetes, according to the 2015 National Fallen Firefighters Foundation report “Heart to Heart: Strategizing an Evidence-based Approach to Reduce Cardiac Disease and Death in the Fire Service.” CHD is the leading cause of firefighter Line of Duty Deaths each year, and one of the contributing factors to heart disease is diabetes.

Diabetes is something that the fire service needs to recognize in its members to help prevent more line-of-duty incidents. Through the new position statement, the NVFC is prompting education, management and prevention of the disease. The only way for fire/EMS organization members to get the proper diagnosis and treatment is through an annual medical evaluation and screening. It is one of the many medical ailments that can be found through an annual medical evaluation, providing further confirmation as to why annual exams are so important.

Reducing the number of Line of Duty Deaths will always be a priority of the NVFC, and urging departments to give members the benefit of an annual physical evaluation is a huge step in that process.

The issues of diabetes and medical screenings are important to the NVFC, but they are also important to me personally. During our annual physicals at the Cherryville Fire Department in 2014, the medical exam provider found an issue with my bloodwork relating to glucose issues. The medical provider urged me to visit my local physician, who ran some tests to check the red flag that was found.

I was diagnosed as pre-diabetic. I fall in that 86 million people in this country who are battling and fighting not to fall into the full-blown diabetic category. I would have never known I had an issue with my glucose without our annual physicals and my condition would have continued to progress unchecked.

Catching diseases and risk factors early are why the NVFC constantly urges the importance of providing those annual physicals. By discovering my pre-diabetic diagnosis early, my doctor was able to put me on a prescription and start working on management.

It’s been almost three years and I have never had to resort to taking insulin. I am exercising on a much more regular basis, watching my food intake better and have lost 15 pounds. I am able to continue to serve my department and community without the health complications that full-fledged diabetes
s Surely would have brought. It’s an ongoing battle for me to keep from becoming diabetic, but it’s a challenge I am glad to continue fighting, thanks to getting an early diagnosis from our annual physicals.

“DIABETES IS SOMETHING THAT THE FIRE SERVICE NEEDS TO RECOGNIZE IN ITS MEMBERS TO HELP PREVENT MORE LINE-OF-DUTY INCIDENTS.”

The NVFC’s position is this: “The NVFC supports and advocates for the education and prevention of diabetes and implementation of approaches to actively cope with the diagnosis for all firefighters and their families.”

It’s a position that makes sense for the NVFC in continuing to promote firefighter health and safety. It’s a position that makes sense for the firefighters already coping with the diagnosis. It’s a position that is truly personal for me. We only have one heart; we have to do whatever it takes to take care of it and not become another statistic. Your family and your fellow firefighters are depending on you!

Chief Jeff Cash has been in the fire service for over 35 years, serving in both the volunteer and career sectors. He has served as the Fire Chief of the Cherryville (North Carolina) Fire Department since 1986 and is a North Carolina certified firefighter, EMT, rescue technician, fire officer, arson investigator, fire code enforcement officer and instructor. He is a Past President of the North Carolina Firemen’s Association and serves as the North Carolina director to the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). He sits on the NVFC Executive Committee, represents the NVFC on the NFPA 1021 Committee and the IAFC Safety Health & Survival Committee, and has testified before Congressional committees on fire service issues.

Don’t Suffer in Silence
First Responder Assistance Program

24/7 Confidential Help for Firefighters and Their Families

The First Responder Assistance Program offers resources for issues regarding:
- Stress Management
- Depression
- Family Conflict
- Anxiety
- Grief and Loss
- Relationships
- Financial or Legal
- Addictions
- Problem Gambling
- Child and Elder Care

For more information, contact:
Dave Petro
800-447-0360
dpetro@providentbenefits.com
providentbenefits.com
Northwell Health Firefighter Cancer Study

FASNY has partnered with Northwell Health and is committed to doing the best possible study for firefighters. Are you ready to help make it happen?

“All Hands” Needed to Combat Cancer in Volunteer Firefighters

The purpose of this study is to determine how many members of the volunteer fire service of New York State have developed cancer and died from it over the past few decades. Participation is a crucial step in getting you and your fellow firefighters the coverage and programs you deserve, from cancer prevention to treatment.

Participation is two steps!

1. First, use your fire department’s email address to contact ffcancerstudy@northwell.edu. A link to the online data will be provided.
2. Second, submit a list of past and present firefighters that have served from your department.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact any of the following:

Email ffcancerstudy@northwell.edu  |  Project Coordinator - Gina Arena - 516-465-1944  |  Research Assistant - Vincenza Caruso - 516-465-3196
10 BEST PRACTICES IN PREVENTING FIREFIGHTER CANCER

1. **Full personal protective equipment (PPE)** must be worn throughout the entire incident.

2. **A second hood policy** should be in place for all departments.

3. **Wet decontamination** is required anytime your gear (helmet, hood, gloves, PPE) may have been exposed to products of combustion or other contaminates.

4. **Exposed areas of the body** (neck and face) should be wiped off during rehab; carrying antibacterial wipes on all apparatus is suggested.

5. **Change your clothes** and wash them immediately after exposure to products of combustion or other contaminates.

6. **Shower immediately** after being exposed to products of combustion or other contaminates.

7. **No bunker gear** shall be allowed in areas outside the apparatus floor (i.e. kitchen, sleeping areas, etc.).

8. **Apparatus seats** should be cleaned and decontaminated regularly, especially after incidents where passengers were exposed to products of combustion or contaminates.

9. **Removing gear** prior to returning to the station is recommended; don’t take contaminated gear home or store/transport in a personal vehicle. *If transporting gear in a personal vehicle, keep it in a sealed gear bag or container in the trunk or truck bed, outside the vehicle cab.*

10. **Get an annual physical** and report any physiological changes to your physician as early detection is key to survival. The NVFC outlines several options at www.nvfc.org.
The FASNY Fall Seminar Series “Buildings on Fire: Tactical Risks for the First-Due,” recently completed its statewide tour. The seminar addressed emerging and timely issues with today’s structure fires, fire dynamics and tactical operational deployment.

Arriving companies and personnel at today’s structure fires must be able to rapidly and accurately identify key elements of a building, process that data based upon a widening field of variables and implement timely actions that prioritize issues requiring intervention.

The seminar program presented tactical risks and key considerations for the first-due company, company officer and commander. It is this data that directly affects and influences operational risk management, command and tactical safety and tactical protocols based upon occupancy risks, reading the building and adaptive management principles.

Integrated into the program were key firefighter Line of Duty Death lessons and learnings for today’s demanding fireground. The following are some excerpts and insights related to building construction and tactical considerations.

Today’s demanding and evolving fireground is unlike those of any previous period. The increasing challenges and risks associated with structural firefighting, and the command management of those incidents, places profound demands on those in command.

These individuals must have a strong foundation of skill sets and knowledge on building construction, an integrated understanding of fire dynamics within a compartment and structure and considerations for the process of integrating companies in the tactical operations.

Incident commanders, commanding and company officers and firefighters alike must have increased technical knowledge of building construction, fire behavior and fire dynamics, operational structural stability of the compartment and building envelope and considerations related to occupancy risk versus the occupancy type. Understanding the building – its complexities in terms of anatomy, structural systems, materials, configuration, design, layout, systems, methods of construction, engineering and inherent features, limitations, challenges and risks – is fundamental for operational excellence on the fireground and firefighter safety.

Structural Firefighting: What Types of Risks?

- Fire
- Adverse Fire Behavior
- Buildings Behaving Badly
- Not Following the Rules of Engagement
- Compromise and Collapse
- Explosions
- Adverse Environmental Factors
- High Risk Vacant Industrial Commercial Properties (Single or Complex)
- Terrorism
- Unknown

We used to discern, with a measured degree of predictability, how buildings would perform, react and fail under most fire conditions. Implementing fundamentals of firefighting and engine company operations built upon nine decades of time-tested and experience-proven strategies and tactics continue to be the model of suppression operations. These same fundamental strategies continue to drive methodologies and curriculums in our current training programs and fire academy instruction.

Predictability of Building Performance

Today’s evolving fireground demands a greater understanding of buildings, occupancy risk profiling (ORP) and building anatomy by all companies operating on the fireground. The
The Volunteer Firefighter

identification, assessment, probability, predictability and intrinsic characteristics of building performance under fire conditions must not only be comprehended, but postulated into an adaptive fire-management model with flexible and fluid incident operational parameters.

There is an immediate need for emerging and operating command and company officers to increase their knowledge and insights. Key areas include modern building occupancy, building construction and fire protection engineering. They must also be able to modify traditional and conventional strategic operating profiles in order to safeguard companies, personnel and team compositions.

“The rules have changed, but no one has told us.” Strategies and tactics must have the combined adequacy of sufficient staffing, fire flow and tactical patience orchestrated in a manner that identifies with the fire profiling, predictability of the occupancy and the building that accounts for presumptive fire behavior.

The predictability of building performance under fire conditions, structural integrity, rapid-fire behavior, accelerated growth rate and intensity levels typically encountered in modern buildings during initial and sustained fire suppression have given new meaning to the term “combat fire engagement.” The rules have changed, but no one has told us. It is no longer just brute force and sheer physical determination that define structural fire suppression operations, although any seasoned officer knows that at times this is what gets the job done under the most demanding circumstances.

From a methodical and disciplined perspective, however, aggressive firefighting must be defined and aligned to the built environment and associated with goal-oriented tactical operations. These are defined by risk-assessed and risk-analyzed strategic processes executed under battle plans that promote safety and survivability.

The dramatic changes in buildings and occupancies over the past 17 years have resulted in inadequate fire suppression methodologies. Fire research and the need to understand fire and its relationship to buildings, systems and firefighting operations are challenging long-held beliefs and encouraging debate. This debate has resulted in thought-provoking and insightful theories, position statements and a time of retrospect and critical self-examination that will influence numerous facets of the fire service.

Continued on next page.
Understanding a building’s design and structural anatomy, construction methods and materials and vulnerabilities under fireground conditions has a direct correlation to safe firefighting operations and firefighter survivability. If you understand the building’s structural system, integration of materials and construction methodology and their impact from fire, effective IAP can be developed and the management of the fireground can be controlled through collapse zones and operational exclusion areas.

If you don’t know and/or understand the buildings in your response area, how can you identify and select appropriate firefighting strategies and tactics? How can you devise a suitable incident action plan unless you factor in changes in fire loads, the introduction of new building materials and technologies and risks to occupants?

Tactical engagement requires tactical disciple, tactical patience and predictive insights of the building executed with adaptive fireground management. If you are going to command or tactically engage at a structure fire, you had better understand the building, for there is a diminishing and limited margin for error on today’s evolving fireground. Errors and omissions are unforgiving and may not be recoverable, leading directly to adverse conditions, possibly including firefighter injuries and Line of Duty Deaths.

The likelihood of adverse events and conditions affecting personnel on today’s fireground create the need to execute tactical deployments with the highest degree of proficiencies in the most efficient manner. These decisions must be made while understanding the limiting time spans to conduct and complete mission-critical tactical objectives affecting civilians, the building and property and operating companies.

Critical thinking is key on today’s fireground. Company officers and commanders should be highly cognizant of fireground time compression and not rely solely on the passage of time in determining actions necessary to preclude or prepare for anticipated adverse conditions within the fire compartment, fire floor or building. They must remain attentive and anticipate and project for rapid fire behavior, extension and propagation, structural compromise and collapse and deteriorating internal environmental and physical building conditions.

The recognition for, and timely formation of, effective compromise or collapse zones for both primary and secondary collapse must be a principal strategic fireground consideration when suspected or apparent collapse indicators are identified and assessed.

The Five Focus Core Relationships

There are five focus core relationships that are fundamental to the “Five-Star Command Model” that prescribes an integrated approach towards studies, training, operations, KSA and competencies.

These relationships include:

- Building Construction
- Risk Management
- Firefighter Behaviors/Human Performance
- Incident Management/Operations
- Situational Safety

The Building Construction Domain has five identified and independent core curricula elements that include:

- Construction Systems
- Occupancies and Risk Profile
- Compromise and Collapse Characteristics
- Materials and Methods of Construction
- Fire Dynamics and Fire Behavior

In most fireground situations, the probability of structural collapse or compromise is inevitably minimized, overlooked or at times disregarded until the catastrophic conditions present themselves with little to no time to react accordingly. The loss of situational awareness, coupled with distracted attention to subtle or obvious pre-collapse building indicators, and gaps in building and construction system knowledge combine to elevate operational risks to personnel on the fireground at structure fires.
Each year, a sizable percentage of the number of firefighters killed is the result of structural collapse. There are cases on record where the deaths from collapse were a direct result of faulty size-up by officers because of their lack of knowledge of building construction, fire behavior and rate of water application needed.

Sounds recognizably like a preamble to any number of current reports or position statements relevant to today’s prevailing issues or conflicts affecting the fire service. In fact, it was written by Chief Lloyd Laymen, circa 1951, in the groundbreaking book Firefighting Tactics. Some things have withstood the test of time, regardless of progress, yet diametrically influenced by the built environment, its buildings and the fires we fight within.

A 43-year fire service veteran and a highly regarded national and international instructor, author, lecturer and fire officer, Christopher Naum is a distinguished authority on building construction issues affecting the fire and emergency services delivers training programs on building construction, command management and operational safety. A former Adjunct Instructor with the National Fire Academy, he is a past member of the Board of Directors - IAFC Safety, Health & Survival Section and a past Vice President with the International Society of Fire Service Instructors. He is also former architect and fire protection engineer. He was chosen as the 1987 ISFSI George D. Post National Fire Instructor of the Year. He has lectured nationally for over 34 years, is a consultant to NIOSH Firefighter Fatality LODD Investigation & Prevention Program and a well-respected tactical theorist. He is the Executive Producer of Buildingsonfire.com and FiregroundLeadership.com and co-produces TheFireOfficer.com. You can follow Buildingsonfire on Facebook and Twitter @commandsafety and @buildingsonfire. Contact him at christopher.naum@gmail.com

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On November 30, 2017, the Museum opened a new exhibit entitled “Pump it UP!” Over 100 guests attended the exhibit opening cocktail party, including New York State Senator Kathy Marchione, Assemblymember Didi Barrett and Hudson Mayor-Elect Rick Rector.

The evening included wine, beer provided by the Albany Pump Station and delicious hors d’oeuvres. These tasty appetizers were generously underwritten by FASNY. The Museum Board and staff would like to extend a big thank you for this kind gesture. The guests also were able to meet Molly the Museum mascot, and interact with the Museum’s resident canine in training.

Senator Marchione was honored for her support of the Museum. Museum Board of Directors President Evan Schieren, Sr. presented her with an award and made the following remarks: “Recently, Senator Marchione secured a $21,000 appropriation for the Museum for educational programming. Senator Marchione, on behalf of the Museum staff and Board, I would like to present you with this Chief’s helmet in recognition of your leadership in recognizing the positive educational and economic impact the Museum has on your District. We appreciate all you do for us and your continued commitment to the Museum and its’ growth.” Shortly thereafter, Senator Marchione helped cut the ribbon and the “Pump it UP!” exhibit was opened.

The “Pump it UP!” exhibit explains how water is transported to the fire and how it is pumped. It also takes a look back at how these tasks were accomplished in the past.

The exhibit includes many interactives for visitors to try. In general, studies show people remember 10 percent of what they hear, 30 percent of what they read, 50 percent of what they see and 90 percent of what they do. So, the Museum Board has made the conscious decision to make the Museum more interactive to better educate visitors and help them retain the information they learn at the Museum. And, let’s face it, “doing” is much more fun than just seeing, hearing or reading about concepts.

The Museum also has objects in the exhibit that help visitors relate the concepts they learn to their daily life. For instance, a wall of silly straws relates to visitors that if they have ever used a straw they have drafted water, just like firefighters do with their pumps. The entire exhibit is rooted in STEM (science, technology, engineering and science) concepts. It actually is a groundbreaking exhibit in the fire museum arena and took considerable time to conceptualize and fabricate.
This actual pump panel was altered to allow visitors to experience what it is like to be a pump operator. If they set the controls correctly, “water” will rush up the tubes to the left and right of the panel.

The Volunteer Firefighter

This pump interactive allows visitors to visualize how a centrifugal pump works, by activating and observing an actual working pump.

Continued on next page.

The Museum staff and Board would like to thank the following sponsors who made this exhibit possible:

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- South Schodack Fire Department (whose tanker is part of the exhibit)

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- Empire Exhibits and Displays
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We would also like to thank the following individuals and organizations, who helped with the content of this exhibit:
- Clinton Fire Department
- South Schodack Fire Department

- Dale Barker
- Glenn Corbett
- Rich Lindmark
- Walter McCall
- Neal VanDeusen

We truly appreciate all of the support we received during the construction of this exhibit. It is now open to the public, so come visit the Museum and see this groundbreaking exhibit for yourself!
A NEW EXHIBIT OPENS AT THE MUSEUM!

This interactive allows the visitor to try and navigate a tanker through a slot car course to reach a fire. Panels light up to warn the visitor of impending danger to the tanker. The dangers are dependent on the path they decide to take.

Visitors explore the new exhibit during the exhibit opening cocktail party.

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This year’s Dalmatian Day was especially notable to the Museum staff. It was on this day that the staff came to know Molly and that she became the Museum’s resident canine in training.

Molly was brought to the Museum for Dalmatian Day by John Caputo. His Dalmatians, Cannoli and Pierce, had a litter of puppies four months earlier and Molly was one of these pups. During the Museum’s focus study, it was learned that visitors expect the Museum to have a Dalmatian. Although the Museum staff had considered getting a resident Dalmatian for the last few years, it was decided that we would wait until after the impending addition was completed.

However, Molly was such a sweet and mellow puppy … she just seemed like the right fit for the Museum. So, this wonderful pup became Molly the Museum Dog! Her official name is FASNY’s Molly Williams. She was named after one of the first documented female firefighters in New York City, circa early 1800s.

Molly is currently in training. She is taking obedience classes and will continue on until she is ready to take therapy dog training classes. Then, she will be the Museum’s Dalmatian ambassador. Molly visits the Museum, FASNY and the FASNY Firemen’s Home during her work week. At night, she has dual residences. She stays at the Quinn household part of the week and with Lacy Florentino-Consolini, the FASNY Firemen’s Home’s Assistant Administrator, the other part of the week.

Molly is a super sweet puppy and loves to cuddle and have her belly rubbed. She can also be a high-energy dynamo when she wants to be. She loves to play with her Jolly Ball in the spacious pen next to the Museum that FASNY generously provided for her. She is on a grain-free diet and loves apples and carrots. She also has two siblings that have adopted her. At the Quinn household, her big sister, Star, is an 11-year-old Black Lab and German Shepherd mix, who does her best to try and mother Molly.

At the Florentino-Consolini household, she has a willing playmate: her brother Jethro, who is a year-old Bloodhound. Molly also participates in puppy daycare once a week, to better socialize her with other dogs. She seems to have fully embraced her new role as Museum Dog and, as you can imagine, she brings much joy and laughter to all the staff members she encounters.

If you visit the Museum you might see Molly going in and out of the building. Even though she is in training, Molly is always willing to accept some “pets” and might even show off some of her skills for you. She can sit, lie down and give a “high five” – not bad for a five-month-old puppy!

Now the backstory about Molly’s breed, the Dalmatian, and how it ended up becoming the most recognized fire service canine.

Authorities disagree as to where the Dalmatian originated from. However, it is generally agreed that Dalmatians first gained great popularity in England. Some of the first Dalmatians were brought to England by the Romani people, who used them in their traveling shows as performers. The Romani people also used the Dalmatians after the show as guards and companions. The date the Dalmatian came to America is unclear, however it is thought that the breed was here during the American Revolution.

Because Dalmatians are intelligent, willing workers, they have been used in almost every capacity imaginable for a canine. Dalmatians were used as sporting dogs, retrievers or in packs for boar or stag hunting. The Dalmatian’s keen balance and retentive memory have made them a popular choice as circus dogs and stage acts. The Dalmatian’s skill as a “ratter” are well known and they have been used to effectively rid homes and barns of vermin.

Molly was born on June 17, 2017. She was part of a litter of nine puppies!
The breed’s affinity for horses became well known. During the era of horse-drawn transportation no well-equipped carriage would go out without one or more Dalmatians running in advance, either under the carriage or at the horse’s hooves.

The Dalmatian is well known as a firehouse mascot. Although many breeds of dogs have been firehouse mascots, the Dalmatian is certainly the breed most associated with the fire service.

It was during the days of horse-drawn fire apparatus that Dalmatians began to be widely chosen as firehouse mascots. Their speed, endurance and close working relationship with horses made them the perfect fire dog for this era. A Dalmatian could skillfully clear the path for a fire apparatus and also keep other canines from interfering with the horses as they rushed to a fire. There are many recorded anecdotes of the “friendship” that developed between Dalmatians and horses, and also of the fierce, protective nature the Dalmatian would exhibit toward horses and equipment left in its charge. These high-energy dogs never tired of answering the alarm or running with their equine co-workers.

The Dalmatian has been affiliated with fire departments for many years. Although modern fire department vehicles are motorized, many companies still keep Dalmatians as their mascots. This is in recognition of their storied history with the fire service. Naturally, this was the only choice of canine for the Museum as the Museum is all about firefighting history.

The Museum’s staff and Board were delighted to welcome Molly to the Museum and look forward to seeing her grow and thrive in her new role as Molly the Museum Dog! Molly is on Facebook, and you can “like” her page by doing a search of the keywords “Molly the Museum Dog.”
Ever hear a firefighter complain about the lack of volunteerism and “family” concept? Too busy being by themselves in cubicles with their electronic devices? “I remember the good old days when we would go off-duty and leave to go straight to Joe’s house to put on a new roof. Now everybody goes home; don’t give a damn about their other family.”

The term family is used pretty loosely around the fire service to indicate many different things. Your firehouse “family”, your birth “family” or your community “family”. All are accurate, but I believe as a service we fail one of those families more often than not. That is the firefighter’s family at home.

I recently took over a small, paid on-call department having been the Chief of a predominantly career department for over 14 years. While the makeup is quite different, the challenges to include the “birth family” in your department mission are identical. So, let’s start with how, as the leader, do you make this engagement a priority and identify strategies to reach that goal.

First and foremost, realize that your No. 1 priority is the firefighter’s blood family. When do you make that position clear to all involved? Right at the orientation. I have witnessed too many departments where orientations have become a formality with no real goals defined.

Your primary goal at an orientation as it relates to their family should be to let prospective candidates and their families (yes, they need to be invited) know what you expect from them as well as what you will give them in return. This goes way beyond turnout gear and training along with a weekly paycheck.

Here is your chance, if you really believe that a firefighter’s calling goes beyond their shift or call back, to include helping with a fellow firefighter’s home repairs, shoveling a driveway for somebody’s mom or checking on a leaky water heater for a spouse whose significant others is on duty. It’s your opportunity to clearly say so! Don’t assume the candidate or their family knows that is an expectation they are signing up for. We sometimes act like we hire psychics, then we get angry and resentful when they don’t read our mind and step up to do the “extra.”

What’s the worst that can happen with this approach? Either the candidate or their family says, "Oh no, that’s not what I thought I was signing up for!” At which point, they move on to another department who doesn’t share the same values you have adopted and it saves all involved loads of headaches down the way.

On the other side of the coin: if the candidate and their family sign up to be part of that program, then you as the leader can ask for the various firefighter family support activities to be undertaken.

However, before you ask for their commitment, you first need to foster that commitment through your own actions. Your people must know you care about them and their families.

OK, what are some ways I can do that? Use the old keep it simple Simon (KISS) method. Get your families involved right away. Once their spouse/significant other is offered the position, have a quick cake and coffee for that firefighter as well as their families. Tell them at that time they are all now part of your fire department family. Tell them how much you appreciate the family sharing their mom or dad with you and your department.

Give them all the “family” patch, your department patch, to proudly display at home in the window so the neighbors all know this is a firefighter’s family home.

Inform them when they are in trouble, and their significant other is away, that there is a dedicated phone number they can call to reach that person or to get help.

Let them know their loved one will be challenged by some difficult experiences along the way but that you have help in place (Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Peer Support Program, Chaplain, etc.) not just for firefighter, but for the family too.

When their academy training is successfully completed, who pins the badge on the candidate when they come off probation? The family should! Take loads of family pictures at the event. Don’t let a formal ceremony ruin a family moment that can only be captured in that second, not recreated later.
Once they are in the department what next? Catch them doing good things and then, to the chagrin of the firefighter, document it and send it home addressed to the family. Do not give it to the firefighter or it’s in the circular file!

A card or short note in letter form will do. If you get evaluations from your public and one catches your eye, include that. It does not have to be a heroic rescue, but maybe an act of kindness on an activated fire alarm.

Organize a “date night” where you invite couples to come to a quick pizza dinner, short program and then send them on their way to enjoy the rest of the night, perhaps with a babysitter in place.

Significant others can get lost. So, if you have drill nights in a volunteer or paid on-call department, designate one as a “spouse/significant others” drill. The firefighter gets credit if their spouse attends as if they were there. The firefighter is expected to stay home with their family!

Next question is what in the heck kind of programs do you put on at a drill like that? Try telling the family what you do to protect their loved ones so they go home. Make the correlation for them about how attendance at training, all those nights away from home, equates to safe returns to the family of their loved one and watch how drill attendance goes up!

Invite your EAP representative or Chaplain to speak for 15 minutes about how they can be reached in an emergency and what specifically they can offer family members. Include a translation session where you fill them in on all our jargon. You would be surprised what some spouses think some of those acronyms are slang for!

At one such drill, after a 30-minute program on the 16 Life Safety Initiatives, I asked a room of about 30 significant others to just introduce themselves. I also asked them to briefly describe their families along with naming the No. 1 challenge of living with a firefighter. I figured 20 minutes for this and I was moving on. About 90 minutes later, I had to send them home! I got the hint and the following year made sure there was a social component at the end, off-site, for this kind of sharing.

What about the little ones whose dad and mom miss birthdays, recitals or games growing up? How about sending birthday cards to the kids from the Chief? Yes, it takes a bit of time to load all those dates in your computer, but once completed, it can be the best part of a crummy day for me.

Oh, and make sure to send one to the spouses too, as they are the ones left to explain to the child why their firefighter parent is gone. Always end it with thanks for sharing your mom/dad with us.

My theory is today’s fire service leaders have to spend more time and effort showing their people they care about their firefighters and their families than ever before.

I realize in large career organizations some of these suggestions are not as practical and will not work. So be creative and invent your own family recognition plan. It doesn’t have to be complicated or cost a lot of money.

Now, if prioritizing your firefighter’s families as part of your core mission sounds too corny for you because that’s “not my style,” then delegate it to someone who can! If you don’t see a value in this, then simply get out of a leadership position as quickly as you can.

My theory is today’s fire service leaders have to spend more time and effort showing their people they care about their firefighters and their families than ever before. Effective leadership is exhausting. It takes a lot of time and a conscious commitment.

Identify a successful department with good overall morale and I’ll show you leadership at all levels that values the families of their firefighters. My challenge to you is to make your department one of those successful departments.

Patrick Kenny has been a member of the fire service for more than 30 years, currently serving as the fire Chief in Western Springs, Ill. Chief Kenny is a member of the Illinois Fire Chief’s Promotional Assessment Board, Illinois Fire Chief’s Educational Foundation and Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Kenny is an instructor for the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, Illinois Fire Service Institute and Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy. He has twice been recognized with the Fire Prevention Achievement Award by the Illinois Fire Inspector’s Association as well as the Richard Arthur Lifetime Achievement Award. He was recognized by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association as “Fire Chief of the Year” in 2004 and was nominated for the same award by Fire Chief Magazine for the International Fire Chiefs that same year.
When I first came on shift, I was assigned to a dorm at Headquarters Station. There were three or four men allocated to a bunk room by company (Engines 1 or 2, Trucks 1 or 3 and Squad 1). For a long time, I would spend my “sleep” period lying there staring at the ceiling tiles. The alarm bells would cause me to jump up with my heart pounding like a trip hammer.

Pete Gearhart was in my bunkroom. Pete was a knowledgeable firefighter and something of a pioneering activist, continually pushing for improved safety standards.

Pete also had a reputation for being inordinately concerned with his health. He would place a small rug beside his bed to protect his feet from the cold floor, carry dental floss in his lunch bag, refuse on one occasion to place his mouth on our Resusci-Annie training dummy for fear of catching germs, etc.

One night I woke for an alarm to see Pete hurriedly snatching off a surgical mask. He was wearing it because one of the guys in the dorm had a cold.

“I would think back on that decision with regret. I was in for quite an experience.”

Through the years, I’ve bunked alongside plenty of guys in the dorms before I made deputy chief and rated my own room.

There were all-night radio listeners and nightmare screamers.

Some of the guys, like Mike Mondoro of Rescue 1, were world-class snorers. Billy Powell of Ladder 3 was no slouch either. The undisputed champion, however, was Van Wormley. Van was the Ladder 3 driver, known throughout the department for his legendary snoring.

Actually, Van was on another shift back when I slept in the firefighters’ dorm. After my promotion to lieutenant, I was transferred to Van’s shift. Though I slept in the officers’ dorm, I would occasionally hear buzz saw sounds reverberating from across the hall in the ladder company’s bunkroom.

Once I did briefly hear Van snore nearby as he fell asleep in the TV room where a bunch of us were in there watching a movie. It was impressive, though it had not reached the full upsurge in volume that I would later experience. I was about to wake him (sleeping is supposed to be done only in the dorms) when the alarm bells sounded and we all had to hustle over to slide the pole.

I was Captain of Engine 2 when I finally experienced Van’s prolonged snoring close up. Our deputy chief, Tom Frank, had designated Van as acting Lieutenant of Engine 1. It was nearing 10:00 p.m. when we returned from a red panel alarm and smoke detector activation at the YMCA.

“Say, Cap,” Van approached me as we climbed the stairs to the second floor. “I made my bed in my regular dorm, okay?”

“You ought to sleep in the officers’ dorm, Van,” I replied. “I might be out on an alarm with Engine 2 and you should be here to answer the phone if Central Dispatch has a question or some info for us.”

“Well, you know ... my snoring. I snore pretty loud.”

“Oh, that’s OK. I don’t sleep so great at the firehouse, anyway.”

I would think back on that decision with regret. I was in for quite an experience. Once asleep, Van would start off breathing regularly. This was followed by heavy breathing. Then came the snoring, moderate at first and gradually building to a climactic crescendo – something like a chainsaw cutting through sheet metal. And then, when you felt that your ears must be bleeding, came the violent choking and coughing (the first intense coughing fit had me mentally reviewing my CPR training). This was followed by a return to soft breathing, and the whole sequence would begin again.

Well, of course, I got no sleep that night, even though I tried to time his pattern and fall asleep during the quiet periods. I began to pray for an alarm to interrupt the agony. No such luck.

I had heard of sleep apnea and wondered if that is what this was. After a few hours, I eventually got up, lit a cigarette and walked around the firehouse ... finally settling at my desk to attempt some work. I could still hear the jackhammer sounds from the adjoining officers’ dorm.

“Well, he warned me,” I thought bitterly. It was a long night.

Years later, shortly before his retirement, Van had a brief stay in Muhlenberg Hospital for a bronchial infection. I was a Deputy Chief by then and with my aide B.J. Fleming, visited him. Van was asleep when we arrived. His two teenaged daughters were there. As we spoke to the girls, the heavy breathing began, followed by the rasping buzz saw.
“Oh, Dad!” the younger of the girls reproached him, embarrassed.

“Don’t wake him, girls,” I said. “We’re used to that snoring at the firehouse.”

“I don’t see how,” the older daughter spoke up. “We’ve been hearing it our whole lives and it makes our teeth ache.”

Mike McCue was another guy with whom I shared the officers’ bunkroom for a time when he was a new Lieutenant and I a Captain. Mike was a soft-spoken firefighter who dearly loved the job. A religious Catholic who desired to do good works, he also volunteered his off-duty time as a paramedic.

He spent 30 years fighting fires, gaining an impressive reputation and rising to the rank of Captain along the way. Still, when I remember Mike, I often do so as I first knew him: a good-looking eager young man working with me for the first time.

We were trying to locate the fire in a large well-lit basement apartment with several storage areas. It was hot, but not smoky. I had Mike on the nozzle of our inch-and-a-half line. He had just completed his probationary period and was working his first overtime on my Engine 2 back when I was a lieutenant. I had heard good things about this conscientious kid who came from a firefighting family. His uncle was a former Captain in our department who was killed on the job. Our Thomas J. McCue library was named after him. Mike’s older cousin, Tim, was a fire Lieutenant in a federal fire department.

As we advanced, I noticed faint smoke under the door of one of the locked rooms. The smoke was kind of pumping in and out as though breathing, a sign of a smoldering fire starved for oxygen. I used my all-purpose tool to force the lock. When it was free, I told Mike to get ready with the nozzle, but to stay low and to the side when I pulled it open. He knelt opposite me.

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“OK, Mike,” I said through my air mask. “We’ll give it a chance to light up and then go in and hit it hard.”

As I reached over from my knees and was opening the door, I saw in the corner of my eye the overeager youngster rising with the nozzle ready to extinguish the fire.

“Down!” I yelled and, at the same time, got hold of his coat and pulled him down hard. The open nozzle fell from his grip, spraying water all around us.

A second later, an enormous flame shot out of the doorway over our heads with an explosive “whoosh.”

We both scrambled to shut off the nozzle. Mike beat me to it.

“All right, Mike.” I said as the flame quickly receded. “Now we go in and knock this sucker out.”

There was a window on the far wall. I directed Mike to hit it high on straight stream until the glass broke, venting the fire and keeping it from running the ceiling and coming back at us.

“I began to pray for an alarm to interrupt the agony. No such luck.”

Hot smoke enveloped the room expanding the water droplets into a scalding steam cloud. After we had snuffed the fire, I looked at Mike. His eyes under his face mask looked as big as saucers, but he seemed okay.

When we’d exited the area and removed our masks, I placed a hand on his broad shoulder.

“I’m guessing that you now know why we don’t stand up when making entry through a door,” I said. “Especially on a darkened, smoldering fire which will rush out at you to get oxygen.”

“Yeah, Lieutenant. Wow. I see what you mean.”

“You can chalk this one up to on-the-job-training,” I said. “And now you can say you saw a backdraft up close — and lived to tell about it.”
Holiday season at the Home is always a special time of year. Festive decorations, numerous parties, crammed activities schedules and plenty to eat highlight the members’ days from November through January.

This year was no exception, beginning with our annual Thanksgiving Day Feast. Members, staff and over 40 visitors were treated to a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. Everyone went away full and ready to take in either an afternoon of watching football or participating in special Thanksgiving Day bingo.

As we reflect over this past year, there are so many reasons to give thanks. Our 125th anniversary year was truly special, filled with many celebrations, commemorations, parades and events.

We are extremely grateful for the support of our firematic brothers and sisters. Their participation at, and sponsorship of many of the events at the Home, helped greatly to enrich the lives of our members. We would not have as many events without their generous contributions.

There is also much to look forward to in the new year. Our new Multi-Purpose Building is nearly completed and will be ready for events beginning in the spring. Our members are looking forward to utilizing this new space and all the additional amenities it offers to them and visitors.

Our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony commenced our Christmas season at the Home. Each year, the Resident’s Council selects a member to pull the switch to light all the decorations located throughout the grounds. This year, the Council selected Shirley Wase of the Catskill Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary to do the honors.

I would like to thank our terrific Maintenance Department for their numerous hours of hanging up decorations and for facilitating the magical switch that lights up our campus.
The parades continue at the Home, even during the winter months. Greene County presented their Parade of Lights for our members. Thirty-three trucks were decorated and provided onlookers a tremendous display of lights. After the parade, a delicious meal was served and members received gifts from Santa Claus.

This was only the beginning of the Home’s Christmas season. Events for December included parties sponsored by the Hudson Mohawk Volunteer Firemen’s Association, the Blue Vests, the Fuller Road Fire Department, the Columbia County Volunteer Fire Association, the Greenport Fire Department Pumper Co., A.B Shaw Fire Co. and LAFASNY.

The generosity to our members through their firematic families and donors is incredible and certainly lifts up the spirits of our members during the holidays. I would encourage you to check our website for upcoming events and I invite you to visit this winter.

We have had two members admitted since the last issue of The Volunteer Firefighter. Robert C. Goodrich, 88, of the Hunter Fire Co. No. 1 was admitted on October 12. Frank W. Roberts, Jr., 50, of the Athens Volunteer Fire Department was admitted on November 7. This brings our current census to 82 members.

We hope you will be able to join us at some of our events and experience the joy we share during this special time of year. From the members and staff at the Home, may you all have a wonderful holiday season and a blessed new year!

FASNY FIREMEN’S HOME RESIDENTS’ BIRTHDAYS

The following residents of the Firemen’s Home celebrate their birthdays in the months of January and February. Please feel free to send cards or happy birthday wishes. These brighten their day and always put a smile on their faces.

January

8 Elaine Tomaso, Spouse
   Barbara P. Greenwood, Carmel Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary
10 Carlton R. Menzies, Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department
18 Anne M. Ryan, Copake Fire Co. No. 1 Ladies Auxiliary
19 Madeline V. Hildenbrand, Catskill Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary
26 William C. Rosenhagen, Independent Hose Co. No. 6 Ossining

February

7 John T. Welton, Walton Fire Department
10 Michael Trizinsky, Senate H & L Co. No. 1, Ossining Fire Department
23 Harold J. Bohlig, Ossining Hose Co. No. 1
25 Henry L. Wolfe, Hillcrest Fire Co. No. 1
27 Robert C. Goodrich, Hunter Fire Co. No. 1
   Orville Knowlton, Owego Fire Department
   Michael F. Sapcoe, Washington Hose Co. No. 3, Hudson
Shirley Wase met the love of her life and late husband, Stanley, shortly after graduating from Catskill High School. He had just returned from serving in World War II and was working at a nearby farm.

The two devoted their lives to creating a loving home for their three children and serving their community. Stan volunteered as a firefighter for the former Catskill Hose Co. No. 1 (now No. 3) and as a Cub Scout Co-Master and Little League coach. Shirley joined the Catskill Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary and volunteered as a Cub Scout Den Mother and 4-H Leader. She fondly recalls that they often had a house full of kids, especially in the summertime.

"It probably helped that we had a swimming pool in our backyard," said Shirley with a smile.

Sadly, Stanley developed cancer and passed away at the young age of 56. Though she was devastated, Shirley knew that she needed to remain active. She continued her work with her local Auxiliary and also volunteered for Meals on Wheels and the Department of Aging.

When living on her own became difficult, FASNY was there for Shirley. With the help of her son-in-law, also a Catskill firefighter, she came to reside at the FASNY Firemen's Home three years ago.

When asked what she likes most about her new home away from home, Shirley replied, "They keep us busy here … we don’t stop." Bingo, racing games, arts and crafts are just a few of her favorites.

She appreciates that while she receives a high level of care, she is also able to maintain a degree of independence.

"I’m 89 years old, but I still get up, make my bed and put on my makeup!" she remarked proudly.

An avid reader, Shirley frequents the Home’s Library for a good book or magazine to read in her reclining chair next to the window that overlooks a giant outdoor Christmas tree. Shirley had the honor this year of turning on the tree lights during the Home’s Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 30.

Like most residents at the Home, Shirley decorates her room to make it her own. Her walls are full of family pictures and arts and crafts, which she made in the Activities Department.

When asked about the celebrity posters that decorate one corner of her room, Shirley disclosed that she is a devoted fan of Elvis, the Yankee’s Derek Jeter and Blake Shelton, who Shirley noted was People magazine’s Sexiest Man of the Year. “I can still dream!” she added with a wink.

Above: Shirley Wase enjoys a good book with her favorite Elvis bookmark, a Christmas gift from LAFASNY.

Photo courtesy of Vin Galvin.
For generations, we’ve been there — protecting the future of more emergency responders than any other provider of emergency service insurance in North America. With 24/7 claims support, industry-leading training tools and a 97.6 percent loyalty scale, VFIS is the preferred insurance provider among agents and their customers.

Just like you, we’re always on the job.

The Nehf family has been on the job for three generations.
Last August was my first FASNY Convention and first meeting as the newest appointee to the Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee. Thank you to the existing members for their acceptance and to Director/Liaison Michael R. Caron for his guidance.

During our session, Director Caron urged us to “think outside the box” to advance the goals of our Committee. What is that exactly? Maybe the Halligan tool would be a good example.

Prior to 1948, firefighters would have to carry several tools to perform their tasks. Then Chief Halligan of the FDNY thought that it would be a good idea to have a single multi-purpose tool capable of performing many fireground tasks. It took some time, but today most of us have a Halligan as part of our toolkit. Was he “thinking outside the box”?

Dee Brown, Chief of the Redwood Fire Department Auxiliary, was visiting Maryland. While there, she was introduced to a program where young girls deliver the fire safety/prevention message to elementary school students. Dee brought the idea back to her home department and now “Miss Fire Prevention” and her “Ambassadors” are spreading the message to students in the Redwood area. Dee saw value in the program and adapted it to her community needs.

Jamie Smith Quinn and her staff at the FASNY Museum of Firefighting regularly present innovative and informational programs. They are experts at developing and presenting fire prevention and life safety programs for people of all ages.

In November, the Museum unveiled its newest exhibit called “Pump It Up.” The exhibit displays how we in the fire service address the problem of providing a sufficient water supply to the fireground. A visit to the Museum, or to their website, will provide you with a wealth of ideas and information.

For 30 years my fire department has been delivering a safety and fire prevention program at the middle school in our district. When we began, the school housed grades four through eight. With guidance from the faculty, we created a group of evolutions to address the unique issues with each age group. Looking back, I really believe we were “thinking outside the box” when we put the program together.

Evolutions for the three lower grades lasted approximately half of the time allotted for a class period. This gave us the opportunity to deliver multiple messages while keeping the attention of the students.

Subjects for the fourth grade included apparatus and ambulance tours, meet the firefighter (full SCBA) and “pledge cards.” The students were asked to take the cards home and discuss the fire safety issues listed on them with their family.

The list includes “get out, stay out,” having a family meeting place and smoke alarms. Once the student shared the information with his or her family, a parent would sign the card and they would become a “Junior Firefighter.”

Fifth and sixth grade evolutions included tours of apparatus, a demonstration of firefighting PPE and tools and what we called “the easel.” In the easel scenario, we wrote a series of questions on an easel sheet and presented them to the group.

Questions included “what is EDITH?” and “What do you do if you see your neighbor’s house on fire?” The questions encouraged discussion, kept the attention of the students on the subject and gave us the opportunity to deliver our message.

Sixth graders were also shown how to use a fire extinguisher. The evolution included a discussion of the nature of fire, types of extinguishers and rules for their safe operation. The students were encouraged to share the information with the adults in their family, who should take the lead should a fire occur. Finally, each student is paired with a firefighter and allowed to operate a CO2 extinguisher.

For seventh graders, we performed a vehicle extrication drill. This gave us the opportunity to discuss automobile life safety issues such as the use of seatbelts, child seats, texting and in-vehicle distractions.

Eighth graders had a hose competition. Each classroom selected four members to dress in turnout gear and compete to fill the barrel fastest. The winning team was awarded a trophy for their classroom.
You have probably noticed that I have been writing in past tense. Over the years, the school district has reorganized and moved grades four and five to other schools outside our fire district. Now we are being told that our Fire Prevention Day visit this year will be our last, as the remaining students are being moved to other schools.

This will not deter us, as we are now working with our neighboring fire districts to find a way to continue delivering the fire safety message to middle school-aged students in their new schools.

We know of two occasions where students used the knowledge and skills they learned from us to extinguish fires in their homes. This may not seem like a large payback for 30 years of effort, but it’s enough for our enthusiastic firefighters to want to return again to deliver the fire prevention and personal safety message.

We also learned that to have a successful program for students of this age, you need to keep your message short, simple and age appropriate. Focus on one subject at a time and try using evolutions – move the students from one venue/subject to another.

For more information, please log on to the FASNY Fire Prevention and Life Safety website at www.preventfiresny.com. The website hosts a variety of resources, including handouts, contest information and relevant links.

If, while you are “thinking outside the box,” you come up with a new idea or method for fire prevention and life safety education, please share it with us.
Ed. note: This is the second in a three-part series about the hazards of solar power to firefighters and how to approach them.

Like the passive solar systems we covered in the first article, thermal solar systems also use the sun’s radiated heat as a benefit. The systems are rudimentary.

To make it simple: piping is placed in a box meant to collect heat or tubes are exposed to absorb solar radiation. Therefore, we call these thermal solar devices “collectors.”

The piping is filled with a fluid that brings cold fluid into the collector and hot liquid out. Water is a fluid good for heating pools, for example pumping cold pool water out and hot solar collector water back in. This is an open-loop system.

Collectors may be placed on homes, sheds and barns or as a ground array. Commercial water collectors have been used since the 1880s, when an individual had to start a fire to get warm water. Early collectors were revolutionary at the time.

Modern collectors are becoming extremely inexpensive and more are making an appearance in residential and commercial areas, even in campgrounds. The problem is that water freezes. The bulk of household or commercial collectors use glycol or “antifreeze” to avoid this, but showering in or drinking glycol is not preferred.

Glycol antifreeze in the system works essentially the same way – by being pumped through the thermal system collectors – but in a closed loop. This loop is cycled through a boiler or water heater providing the sun-infused glycol with a temperature of up to 250 degrees Fahrenheit (with some commercial collectors reaching 350 degrees).

Some loops go through floors and/or driveways. I know of a mechanic that likes to lie on a warm garage floor to work on his cars and has a thermal system cycled through the floor.

An average collector holds 40 gallons of fluid. Using water to calculate the weight at 8.35 pounds per gallon, that’s 334 pounds per collector. The collector itself is roughly about 100 pounds. Since I’m not an emergency incident mathematician, let’s make this easy: piping fluid through an average 30-by-60-inch collector is approximately 500 pounds.

Although there are various calculations that can be taken, the average residential home with a family of four typically requires two collectors. In an area just over the size of one piece of plywood, there are approximately 1,000 pounds.

Let’s make this interesting and add a 100-gallon expansion reserve or manifold tank, which is common. Again with simple math, that’s nearly one ton of weight in roughly the same area.

Let’s make this really interesting and place it on top of a lightweight truss roof.

Wait, I’m not finished ... let’s set the structure on fire. Structural instability with thermal systems scares the hell out of me. The collapse potential in a compromised structure is terrifying knowing the vertical ventilation and interior attack tactics we employ.

The National Fire Prevention Association states the No. 1 concern of first responders in regard to solar power systems is electrocution. Although a pump is used to cycle the fluid in a thermal system, do you see a different concern? Can we still ventilate? How do we do interior work? One answer I received was to cut the identifiable PVC piping with power saws to reduce the load. Pressurized 250-degree glycol being pumped out of cut PVC makes this tactic catastrophic at best. Scalded firefighters and running saws falling off a compromised roof full of slick steaming pressurized antifreeze should be avoided.

We can identify thermal systems in several ways. They tend to be box-shaped since a collector is a housing for the piping. Newer thermal system collectors forgo the box and are approximately the same size, but laid out in a series of conjoined glass or plastic tubes that collect the sun’s radiated heat.

A manifold tank of 80 to 100 gallons may accompany a system. One very recognizable indicator is the PVC piping. PVC differs from conduit that this used in electric systems and is typically black or white in color depending on the code.
PVC carries the fluid directly to and from the collector. The hot liquid-filled PVC can easily be traced with a thermal imaging camera, even through dense smoke. The collector will reflect the sun so it may show hot with the TIC, especially on cold days or at night. Be aware of image “masking” on extremely hot sunny days.

Inside an electric breaker panel, or sub-panel, should be an electric circuit breaker for the thermal system pump. This can be placed in the “off” position when utilities are controlled to prevent the system from remaining under pressure.

However, you must understand the system will continue to absorb heat since cool fluid is no longer cycling in and a pressure relief valve may release the expanding hot fluid. The pressure in these systems under normal conditions can be as low as 10 PSI in a passive gravity system and run up to 50 PSI in a pressurized pump system.

Pool pump pressure is most common or even hydrant pressure for reference. Relief valves can have various settings with 50 PSI up to 86 PSI, releasing pressurized steam or fluid if the pressure setting is reached. Removal of fluid can be attempted if the gauge manifold can be found. The fluid fill and release valves can be located typically within the manifold.

Removal of heated fluid is extremely dangerous, especially under pressure or if pressurized steam is released. Do not take removal lightly even if removal is attempted. What do you do with almost 200 gallons of 60/40 antifreeze? Removing of fluid may be considered once a thermal system drain valve is located and the pump is turned off. Gravity may release the fluid from the system and the system remains hot until all fluid is removed. Removal of fluid will reduce the load to just the weight of the collectors, therefore creating less of a dangerous load.

Note that removal of the fluid may not be feasible. We are back to the original problem: the load factor. Collectors placed on newer residential construction or industrial buildings have an issue regarding lightweight construction.

Also consider the load concern with existing, renovated and older structures. Many of these structures were not constructed to take such excessive loads. Refrigeration, HVAC, cell towers … may be added to enhance the industrial use of the structure or create income. Even with engineers factoring in the use of existing load capabilities their calculations don’t consider fire load. Collapse time potential should be cut in half at best. This is with residential and commercial structures. An unprotected open web steel bar joist can fail between 5 to 10 minutes of fire exposure. With the excessive loads of solar thermal and photovoltaics applied to these structures, collapse is imminent.

“With the excessive loads of solar thermal and photovoltaics applied to these structures, collapse is imminent.”

There are always hazards that need constant monitoring. However, a simple tactic can ensure safety without exposure to collapse risks, scalding fluids or jeopardizing the system, even when power is off and the thermal system over-pressure clock begins ticking. Simply “cool and cover.”

A dedicated handline with a 30-degree fog should adequately cool a large area without an electrical shock hazard. Covering will keep a system from obtaining radiated heat from the sun that will allow temperatures to rise and over-pressure the system. Both can be easily deployed with minimum risk and with tools readily available.

Captain Joseph Vallo has been a firefighter in the Jersey City Fire Department since 1992 and is currently assigned to Engine 22 “Fort Apache. He is a trained Special Operations Commanding Officer of Rescue Co. No. 1, Marine Division & HazMat Operations Unit. Mr. Vallo is part of The Homeland Security UASI team, a licensed USCG Master Captain, a Line Officer with the U.S. Maritime Services and an Admissions Partner for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Mr. Vallo has been a Level II Fire Instructor for the State of New Jersey since 1994 and is a respected Board member of the New Jersey Division of Fire Safety Training & Education Committee and the ANJ College and University Fire Safety Commission. In 1995 Mr. Vallo created On the Job Fire-Rescue, a technical instruction and consulting firm.
By Chris Daly

The following article is dedicated to Firefighter/EMT Ben Lang. Ben was tragically killed in 2004, when the ambulance he was riding in hydroplaned on a wet road, overturned and crashed. Ben was wearing his seatbelt and sitting in the captain’s chair in the rear of the ambulance at the time of the crash. Please visit www.loddprevention.com for more information and to support his mother’s cause.

In recent years, there have been a number of fire service injuries and fatalities caused by tire-related crashes. Few people realize the importance of keeping a vehicle’s tires in proper working condition. Tire pressure, tire tread depth and road conditions all play an important role in keeping your vehicle safely on the road.

The portion of the tire which is in direct contact with the road surface is known as the “contact patch.” This contact patch allows your vehicle to accelerate, steer and stop. Any compromise of this contact patch will adversely affect the safety of your vehicle.

A contact patch is only about the size of your hand. When you consider that there are usually between four to 10 tires on a fire service vehicle, you can see that there is actually very little contact between your vehicle and the road surface. For this reason, we must ensure that as much of this contact patch touches the road surface as possible. This is accomplished by keeping a close eye on tire pressure and tire tread depth during your routine maintenance checks.

A bald tire actually provides more traction on a dry roadway than a treaded tire. This is because there is more rubber actually meeting the road surface, thereby creating a larger contact patch. However, bald tires provide poor traction on wet roadways. As emergency responders, we must often fight adverse weather conditions such as rain, snow and ice during routine and emergency responses. For this reason, tire manufacturers place tread on tires. Tire tread is designed to channel rain, slush and snow away from the tire face, thereby creating a larger contact patch. However, bald tires provide poor traction on wet roadways. As emergency responders, we must often fight adverse weather conditions such as rain, snow and ice during routine and emergency responses. For this reason, tire manufacturers place tread on tires. Tire tread is designed to channel rain, slush and snow away from the tire face, allowing the tire to stay in contact with the road surface.

As your tire rotates around the axle, the tire tread is constantly “pushing” water out of the way and allowing the tire to come into contact with the road surface. As it rotates, a wedge of water will build up in front of the tire. If you are traveling too fast and your tires are rotating too quickly, the tire does not have enough time to push this wedge of water out of the way. As a result, the vehicle will rise up on top of the water and the tire will lose contact with the road surface. You will then lose all steering and braking control of the vehicle. This situation is what is known as “hydroplaning.”

Should you find yourself in a hydroplane situation, research has shown that you should take a firm grip of the steering wheel, take your foot off the accelerator and do not touch the brakes. You should attempt to keep your vehicle on a safe heading by not turning the steering wheel. Hopefully, the vehicle will regain traction and you will be able to safely control the situation.

There is little that you can do to remove yourself from a hydroplane situation once it happens. Instead, it is important to prevent this situation altogether. The best way to prevent your vehicle from hydroplaning is to slow down in wet or inclement weather. The faster you go, the more likely you are to hydroplane. It is not uncommon to see vehicles hydroplane at speeds as low as 30 to 40 mph.

In addition to slowing down in bad weather, keeping a close eye on the condition of your tires will also help to keep your vehicle safe.

A tire that is under-inflated tends to hydroplane at slower speeds. This is because there is less tire pressure inside of the tire to push water out of the way. You should consult your tire and vehicle manufacturer to determine the proper air pressure that you should keep in your tire. Once you know how much air to keep in the tire, make sure to check the tires with a tire pressure gauge at least once a week.

It is also important to keep a close eye on the depth of your tire tread. Federal guidelines require 4/32 of an inch on your steering tires and no less than 2/32 of an inch on your rear tires.

However, studies have shown decreased performance in inclement weather when tire tread reaches 5/32 of an inch or less. Purchase a tire tread depth gauge at your local automotive store and keep a close eye on the condition of your tire tread. When the tread reaches 5/32 of an inch, notify your fleet maintenance personnel and begin the process of replacing your tires.

Hydroplaning is an extremely dangerous situation that can be easily prevented through proper training and maintenance on your vehicles. Ensure that your drivers realize the importance of slowing down in wet weather. By driving responsibly and performing regular maintenance checks on your tires, vehicle safety will improve.

Chris Daly is a 23-year veteran of the fire service and a full-time police officer who specializes in the reconstruction of serious vehicle crashes and emergency vehicle crashes. He developed the “Drive to Survive” training program (www.drivetosurvive.org) and lectures nationally on the prevention of emergency vehicle crashes. Chris has been a contributing author to Fire Engineering Magazine, the Pennsylvania Fireman and FireRescue.com. He has a master’s degree in safety from Johns Hopkins University. Chris can be contacted with any questions regarding his “Drive to Survive” seminar or assisting with crash reconstructions at station56@asl.com
It would be tough to find another 13-year-old who loves firefighting as much as Joey Abt does. The bright-eyed, inquisitive, smiling young man with Down syndrome says he hopes to fight fires himself, one day.

“I love fireman, I love dispatching,” he declared while touring the Clifton Springs Fire Department in October. Joey tackles his busy life with a sense of humor and all the advantages and risks that Down syndrome brings.

More advantages these days, it seems.

His goal this past summer was to visit 77 fire stations in and around his hometown of Syracuse. Some he even visited twice, and with Clifton Springs the tally is up to 39.

Joey’s Dirt Road Diary Facebook page, which documents all his travels and adventures, is followed by 2,910 – so far. It also traces his progress in collecting fire department patches from all 50 states — a goal Joey has already reached.

His passion was sparked by listening to the police scanner at home. That created a hunger to see the fire stations in person and the treks began.

Fort Drum was one of many highlights and Station 8 in Syracuse was another favorite because Joey got to personally dispatch a “job.” Firefighters slid down the poles and got in the trucks, pretending they were off to a real fire.

Clifton Springs Firefighter and FASNY member David Conklin, with the help of social media, was the one who made the visit to Ontario County possible.

“I was scrolling through Facebook one day and found Joey’s story,” said Conklin. “I fell in love with it — he just melted my heart. I heard he was touring fire stations in New York and I wanted to get him down here.”

Conklin said Joey’s visit was actually a boost for everyone.

“It’s making his day, and I’d say it’s making everybody’s day that’s here, just to see a smile on his face and everybody else’s,” he said.

Clifton Springs Fire Department President Drew Campbell was shoulder-to-shoulder with Joey as the two climbed aboard the department’s 100-foot ladder truck. Campbell called out cues as Joey, smiling ear to ear, raised and lowered the bucket.

“I have a handicapped daughter myself,” said Campbell. “I had this day free and wanted to make somebody else’s day happy. Anytime you can help any special-needs kids — just to make them happy, just to make them feel included — that’s all that matters.”

Too often, such kids are not included in the fun and instead are on the receiving end of stares and silence.

“It’s easier to stare than to say hello to them,” said Campbell. “I get that every day with my daughter, so I go out of my way to make special-needs children happy.

“Just be polite — just say hello,” he said. “That’s all people want, just courtesy.”

For Clifton Springs volunteer firefighter and EMT Connie Jones, the day was a double win.

“This is kind of a two-fold thing for me,” said Jones. “I work for Wayne ARC and I think it’s cool that someone with a disability has this interest in coming. We wanted to share our department because we think it’s pretty great.”

Jones said Clifton Springs has about 30 active volunteers, with an estimated 10 to 15 firefighters responding to a call at any given time.

“We’ve got a really good membership here,” she said. “We’re cohesive, it’s a good team.”

The Abt family was impressed, especially Joey’s mom, Diane Abt.

“The one thing I’ve learned through all this is just how tight the firefighter community is and how giving and caring,” said Diane. “It still amazes me every time we go how people who don’t even know him want to do so much. And especially the volunteers that work 40-hour-a-week jobs and they come out on their days off to make Joey smile.”

“We’re all one big family, and we’ll do anything for anybody,” said Conklin.

This story originally appeared in the October 7, 2017, edition of the Daily Messenger. It is reprinted with permission.
A recent celebration at the home of Baldwin Fire Department Chief Karen Bendel recognized 91-year-old Norman Abrams. As Honorary Chief of the First Aid Co. with more than 60 years of service in the Department, he certainly deserved the honor.

Dozens of men and women from the Department, the First Aid Co. and the Inwood Fire Department gathered to show their support for a man who has dedicated nearly his entire life to helping the community.

“I’ve known Norm about 10 years,” said Daniel Nolan, a volunteer firefighter in Baldwin. “He’s not active, obviously, because of his age, but he still makes parades, he still makes it to funerals, he’ll still show up to functions.”

Nolan added, “He still gives advice to the new guys coming in. I joined the company like five years ago, and he gave me advice on how to do things better.

“On Sunday mornings, we have drills just to go over things to teach new people, or help people who know things refresh their memories a bit. And he still sets it up for Sunday mornings,” he said.

Abrams is widely known and highly respected among the members of the Department, and is the oldest living member of the First Aid Co.

Throughout the festivities, alarms sounded occasionally, signifying emergency calls in progress. Several members of the Department and First Aid Co. would jump into an ambulance and take off, a reminder that these trained EMTs are always on call.

Abrams started his firefighting career at the Inwood FD, where he was a member for six years before joining the Navy during World War II. He left the service in 1950, married his wife, Katherine, and moved to Baldwin in 1952.
He was married for 58 years until Kathrine’s death in 2010. He still lives in the Baldwin home they bought on Jefferson Place.

He joined the Baldwin company in 1953, was a Secretary in 1962, a Second Lieutenant in 1969, a First Lieutenant in 1970 and was elected Captain in 1971, according to Bill Werfelman, a former department Chief who has known Abrams for much of his time in the company.

“In 2003, the Department honored him for his 50 years of service,” Werfelman said. “He got the gold badge and the helmet and all the good stuff. He never misses anything. Even now, he’s still at all the meetings, parades, funerals … I can’t say enough about him.”

Linda Nolan, Captain of the First Aid Company, described Abrams as its moral support. Company members are close, according to Nolan.

“When you’re out in the field and really working hard together,” she said, “it’s hard not to be friends with everybody.”

Abrams was presented with a proclamation from FASNY and a certificate of appreciation from the State Office of Fire Prevention and Control.

“On behalf of the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York, we’d like to recognize your 70 years in the fire service,” said Steven E. Klein, the Association’s First Vice President.

“It’s quite a milestone,” Klein added. “I hope I get there. I hope we all get there.”

This story was originally published in the August 29, 2017, edition of the Baldwin Herald. It is reprinted with permission. Copyright © 2017 Richner Communications, Inc.

Volunteer firefighters make a difference in their departments and communities every day. Do you know a person or project making an impact on the volunteer fire service or in your district?

FASNY is looking for story ideas and articles that will inspire our readership of nearly 50,000 across New York State. Just a few examples:

- Grants for critical services or unique programming;
- Successful recruitment and retention initiatives;
- First responder health and wellness projects or success stories;
- National awards or recognition;
- Local media coverage;
- “Why Am I a Volunteer” testimonials.

Simply send your ideas and contact information to stories@fasny.com with as many details as possible and our editorial staff will take care of the rest. High-resolution photos are strongly encouraged.

Not every idea will make the pages of the magazine but may be included in other FASNY communications, including the website, monthly e-newsletter and social media. So, share your ideas, stories and photos, so we can inspire others to strengthen the New York State volunteer fire service!
In 1976, the Lynbrook Fire Department on Long Island organized the first Emerald Society in the volunteer fire service in the country.

In its first year, the membership quickly climbed to 75 members. Although most of the firefighters were of Irish heritage, some were not. The Lynbrook Fire Department Emerald Society was formed with the help and advice of both the NYPD and FDNY Emerald Societies and soon joined the United Grand Council of Emerald Societies, being only its 14th member.

Each year, Lynbrook FD's Emerald Society marched behind their local Catholic school band in the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade. As other Nassau County firefighters learned of Lynbrook's Society or saw the firefighters marching in NYC, many were soon asking to march with Lynbrook. One of those was Firefighter Jerry Black of the Seaford Fire Department. Soon many others followed.

With interest increasing each year, Lynbrook Firefighter Len Llewellyn and Steve Grogan began an effort to go county-wide with a Nassau County Firefighters Emerald Society.

In 1983, a letter-writing campaign to each of the 71 fire departments in Nassau County began to see how much support there was for a such a county-wide organization. Some departments never responded, but those that did soon appointed delegates to the new Society.

In about 1984, John Clarke of the Williston Park Fire Department, who also supported our efforts, sat at a table in the pouring rain at the Nassau County Parade and Drill in Levittown just to sign up members. In 1985, a set of new bylaws was written and in June 1986, the Nassau County Firefighters Emerald Society was officially formed and Lynbrook's was dissolved.

The first official meeting was held on September 30, 1986, at North Massapequa Fire Department Headquarters. There were 64 department delegates from 37 fire departments and an additional 77 members in attendance.

At that meeting, Len Llewellyn (Lynbrook FD) was elected President. Steve Grogan (Lynbrook FD) was elected First Vice President, while Gerard Black (Seaford FD) was elected Second Vice President and Mike Gilroy (Levittown FD) Secretary.

On June 10, 1987, the Nassau County Firefighters Emerald Society was granted a Certificate of Incorporation by the State of New York.

The new Society soon had a column in the Irish Echo newspaper and the officers gave interviews on Irish radio shows, including Fordham University's WFUV. Back then, the Society was even granted the privilege to send messages via FIRECOM to the growing membership.

With the County Society membership increasing to nearly 1,000, thoughts went next to forming a pipe band. The Board...
of Directors unanimously approved the idea. The Board sought and received the advice and assistance of Nassau County Police Officer James Mattimore, a member of the Police Pipe Band. He offered to teach the members how to play. That led to the first formational meeting for a pipe band at Levittown FD’s Headquarters.

The new Nassau County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band was named “Fir Na Tine,” which means “Men of Fire” in Gaelic. Firefighter Paul Newman of the Levittown FD became the first Band Master.

Fir Na Tine was now the first volunteer fire service pipe band in the country. Both Llewellyn and Black joined that first band as did Bobby Hughes of the East Meadow Fire Department. Bobby, now Chief Instructor of the Nassau County Fire Service Academy. He is still an active member of the band after all these years as their Pipe Major Emeritus and Manager.

After the official formation of the band, next came the hard work of learning to play. The fledging players met each week, first at Seaford, and then at Levittown’s firehouse, to receive lessons in playing the bagpipes and the drums. Their first march was the wet down of a new rig in Levittown. They wore Class B fire uniforms.

Forming a pipe band was an expensive proposition. So, the Society appealed to then-New York State Senator Dean Skelos, who represented the Lynbrook area and who obtained two $2,500 grants. Additional money came from the members wishing to play and a few fundraisers. Kilts were purchased from a company in New Jersey, while the members purchased their own pipes and drums. The first parade that the Pipe Band led the Society was in the Garden City St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

The Emerald Society held a dinner each year. An Irish Firefighter of the Year award was presented to a deserving firefighter who helped to promote our Irish heritage and the growth of the Society. Llewellyn, the Society’s first President, was first to receive the award. Grogan, as well as Black, would also lead the organization and later receive the honor.

Senator Skelos and Congressman Peter King, also a big supporter of the Society and the fire service, were the Society's first two honorary members. By now, the society had reached a membership high of 2,443.

With publicity about the Nassau County Firefighters Emerald Society in the Fire News newspaper (and even in the New York Daily News), calls were received from firefighters in Suffolk County who wanted to start their own society. Over a few meetings, and after sharing Nassau County Society bylaws with them, they formed the Suffolk County Firefighters Emerald Society. The Emeralds were also instrumental in helping Nassau County Sheriff’s Department start their Society.

In the early to mid-’90s, the Society, and even the Pipe Band, saw a decline in membership and activities. In 1996, Tom Egan of the Long Beach Fire Department (who became the new Pipe Major) began the rebuilding of the band, player by player. A
whole new crop of pipe players and drummers were learning the instruments. And Bobby Hughes was still there. They practiced at firehouses in Lynbrook, Point Lookout and East Meadow and even at Lynbrook’s VFW Hall.

Now, with the band starting all over again, their new bylaws allowed a membership of 50 percent firefighters and 50 percent civilians. As requests for entertainment increased for weddings and other events, as well as requests by many fire departments to march and perform, the pipers went out on their own and separated from the Society. It had now become a business with an administrator and a manager. Now, as a separate entity, the Pipe Band changed its name to Nassau County Firefighters Pipes and Drums.

The pipes and drums were back on the street marching in 1998 with Bobby Hughes leading the new pipers. They wore the Irish national tartan colors until 2004, when they changed to their own newly designed tartan kilts. That was made possible by a grant from U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer and funding received from New York Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg. Those new kilts have red color for the fire service; orange and blue for Nassau County; green for Irish heritage; white for the fire service officers; and black for fallen firefighters.

The Pipe Band has now become a well-established and known pipe band in New York. Their performances match those of the longtime FDNY and NYPD piper bands.

Since 2001, they have marched each year in the Savannah, Georgia, St. Patrick’s Day Parade. They have also played in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Delray Beach, Florida. In 2002, the Band played for President George W. Bush at a 9/11 Dedication Ceremony. They played for the dedication of the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Eisenhower Park and play annually at the Nassau County Fire Museum Annual Dinner as well as the Rockville Centre St. Patrick’s Day Parade. And the band has played at halftime ceremonies for the New York Jets at least three times.

Last November, the Jets invited the Pipe Band to play again. But, they declined the offer over the NFL players taking a knee during the national anthem. Manager Bobby Hughes told Newsday that “We cannot in good conscience go there with what the NFL is allowing their employees to do.” He also stated, “We’re all for free speech. We’re all for the right to peacefully protest. But, we’re also for our national anthem, our flag and our nation.”

The Band was named Nassau County Parade champs in 2008, 2009 and 2017, and New York State Parade Champs in 2005, 2009 and 2011. They placed second in the state in 2013. More recently, on January 20, 2017, the Band played its most visible and high-profile performance when they paraded up Pennsylvania Avenue in President Donald Trump’s Inauguration Parade, one of only 40 bands in the country to go to Washington.
Steve Grogan is a 50-year member of Tally-Ho Engine Co. No. 3 of the Lynbrook Fire Department on Long Island. He is an Ex-Captain and has been the department spokesman and writer for 34 years. He also handles publicity for the Fourth Battalion Fire District. He is co-founder of the Lynbrook Junior Fire Department and Nassau County Firefighters Emerald Society. He is a Vice Chairman and PIO for Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior. He is a Vietnam-era veteran who served with US Army Intelligence. He is also a former Lynbrook Village Trustee and a retired federal agent.

The present makeup of the band is 42 members representing 19 of the 71 departments in Nassau County. On average, 20 to 25 members march on each occasion.

The band has also donated their time to many worthy causes, such as the Fourth Battalion fundraiser to raise money for the Nassau County Firefighters Burn Center Foundation. They also played at a fundraiser for the family of ATF Special Agent John Capano, who was killed in the line of duty. They have also made appearances at numerous funerals for Nassau County firefighters killed at the World Trade Center on 9/11 and for all Line of Duty Deaths in the Nassau County fire service.

The Band has produced two albums. The first, Nassau County Firefighters Pipes and Drums, and the second, Second Alarm. The band members also appeared in a segment of the "Impractical Jokers" TV show last year.

According to Edward Moore, the present Pipe Band President, who has been with the band since 1998, “We are looking forward to enhancing our rich history for years to come. Most of all we are focused on continuing our bands mission to proudly represent the Nassau County Fire Service and its 71 departments with the utmost professionalism and honor for years to come.”

The band practices every Wednesday night in East Meadow. Their website is www.nassaufirepipes.com

The Emerald Society is also still active, but with a smaller membership. After a number of years of struggling to find new members, the Society in 2014 began to rebuild in earnest. That year, the membership voted to open the roles to the volunteer ambulance corps in Nassau County.

They have also added associate membership that includes family members and recently they have had discussions with members of the three volunteer departments in the Rockaway section of Queens to join. The society website is www.ncffes.org. Emerald Society President Peter K. Begley of the Island Park Fire Department is working hard to once again grow the society. As the society grows, the band plays on.

Beannachtai na Piele Padraig – Happy St. Patrick’s Day.

Steve Grogan is a 50-year member of Tally-Ho Engine Co. No. 3 of the Lynbrook Fire Department on Long Island. He is an Ex-Captain and has been the department spokesman and writer for 34 years. He also handles publicity for the Fourth Battalion Fire District. He is co-founder of the Lynbrook Junior Fire Department and Nassau County Firefighters Emerald Society. He is a Vice Chairman and PIO for Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior. He is a Vietnam-era veteran who served with US Army Intelligence. He is also a former Lynbrook Village Trustee and a retired federal agent.

HELP Is Back

Beginning with the spring 2018 semester, FASNY will once again be offering the HELP (Higher Education Learning Plan) tuition reimbursement program. The program will only accept 100 participants. The maximum award for any single semester is $1,250.

APPLY NOW
www.fasny.com/help
Well, nobody likes to hear that word “winter,” but it’s here. Make sure you check the vents on the outside of your house to make sure the furnace and water heater are clear of snow. Replace your furnace filters. Don’t forget to clean your dryer vents out. Everyone stay warm and be safe this winter.

In November, Second Vice President Diana Balling mailed out letters to all individual members and auxiliaries belonging to LAFASNY with the Scratch Off Lottery Form. The winner will receive $500 worth of $10 New York State Lottery Tickets.

Each chance is $10 and each drawing will be limited to 200 tickets. There may be multiple drawings depending on the amount of tickets sold. The first drawing will be held at the May 19 meeting at the FASNY Firemen’s Home. Future drawing(s) will be held at the 2018 LAFASNY Convention in August. If anyone is interested in taking a chance, please contact Second Vice President Balling at 1041 Blue Mountain Road, Saugerties, NY 12477. You can also email dlb@megacity.org or call (845) 246-7805 or (845) 389-7115.

Second Vice President Balling is also starting work on the 2018 Convention Journal. Ad prices are as follows: full-page – $100, half-page – $50, quarter-page – $30, eighth-page – $20.

Boosters are also starting to come in. The Second Vice President has issued a challenge to all county auxiliaries belonging to LAFASNY. The county auxiliary that has the most boosters in the 2018 Convention Journal will receive $100.

Also, each county and Sectional that sends in at least 100 names will have their own special booster page in the Journal. The cost is only $1 per name. The names do not have to belong to LAFASNY. They can also be in memory of a loved one. If you put down “Mr. & Mrs.”, that would be $2. Forms are available at each Sectional meeting. However, if you are unable to attend and would like to send in boosters, a plain piece of paper can be submitted with the name, address, phone number and county you are associated with. At Convention, there will also be a drawing of three boosters (first, second and third prizes) not based on county. So, help your county win that $100 prize and send in your booster.

You probably have received the January mailing by the time you read this. There were tickets in that mailing for the Convention raffles: 50/50, Lottery Tree and Convention Raffle Prizes. Second Vice President Balling is currently working on obtaining a special first prize for the Convention Raffle Prize drawing. Watch future issues of this magazine for updates!

Here’s hoping everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We are entering the worst part of the winter, so please be mindful of your elderly neighbors! Why not stop in and have a cup of coffee or tea with them? Everyone loves to have company and loves to know that others are thinking of them.

On October 27, the Westhampton Beach Ladies Auxiliary hosted a Pasta Night. This was to benefit their community service projects such as Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as Maureen’s Haven. It was well attended and enjoyed by all!

On November 12 at the Knights of Columbus Memorare Hall in Seaford, Barbara Stone of the Wantagh Fire Department was sworn in as the 83rd President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Nassau County Volunteer Firemen’s Association. President Stone presented the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of Edith Wilders of the North Merrick Fire Department. Accepting the award in honor of Edith was her beloved family. Edith was a well-respected member of the Nassau County Ladies Auxiliary for 34 years. She was a Past President of the Nassau County Ladies as well as a longtime member and Past President of the North Merrick Ladies Auxiliary. Although Edith is no longer with us, President Stone thanked her for her unselfish support of the fire service and the wisdom and guidance she shared through the years.

President Stone also presented a gift to outgoing Trustee and Past President Pat Callow of the Massapequa Fire Department. Pat was thanked for her years of service as an officer on the Board of the Nassau County Ladies Auxiliary.
Joan Gunther (Bellmore FD), Corresponding Secretary Nancy Pugliese (North Merrick FD) and President Barbara Stone (Wantagh FD). Pictured second row, from left, are: Two-Year Trustee Mary Messina (East Meadow Fire Department), Conductress Ginny Marschall (North Bellmore FD), 1st Vice President B.J. Gilmor (Wantagh FD), One-Year Trustee Maureen Brooks (North Bellmore FD) and Second Vice President Ruth Ivarson (Oceanside Fire Department). Missing from the picture is Treasurer Katherine McCabe (Bethpage Fire Department).

**LAFASNY Five-Year Director Mary Korkuc, Second Vice President Diana Balling, Cody Hoyle and Nancy Pugliese, Corresponding Secretary Ladies Auxiliary of the Nassau County Volunteer Firemen’s Association, contributed to this article.**

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**Western New York**

Stanley MacWilliams

Caledonia • NY

As winter is here again, I find that the season and I have both changed. A snow blower no longer has any tolerance for me; my snow shovel does not fit my hands. There is a bucket of salt on the porch to be thrown on the steps and sidewalk by whoever stops by to shovel us out. Guess what – as I’ve grown older, my attitude has changed.

“I love winter! I can sit and watch it out the window every day!”

- The November 12 Workshop-General Meeting was held at the North Collins Fire Hall, Erie County, with 51 in attendance. Eight Past Presidents were present. All committees met to discuss their meeting and Convention meeting places. Monroe County Trustee Ken Fuller has resigned due to illness. Michael Lapinski was elected by Monroe County to replace Ken.

- The Bowling Tournament information will be out soon. It will be hosted by Eden Lanes. Memorial Scholarship applications for all graduating high school seniors who have a parent or legal guardian who is a member in good standing of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen’s Association are eligible to apply for scholarship assistance. Contact the WNYVFA Secretary or Tim Wolfanger, Dansville, by April 1.

- The Steering Committee met and presented the following candidates: Anthony J. DeMarco, Caledonia, for FASNY Firemen’s Home Trustee replacing retiring Trustee David Wolf and Andrew Pilecki, North Tonawanda, for FASNY Director replacing Edward Tase, Jr., who is a candidate for FASNY Vice President. Both were approved by membership vote.

- Cambria Fire Chief Jon Pressley gave the welcoming remarks at the Niagara County Volunteer Firemen’s Association Installation and 58th Annual Ball on November 11. Master of Ceremonies was Ed Tase, Jr., who introduced the guests. FASNY Chaplain the Rev. Wayne Jagoff offered the invocation with a moment of silence for veterans and active service members followed by the Benediction.

Penni Dysard of the Cambria Fire Co. accepted the reins of the Presidency from Michelle Robertson of the Youngstown Fire Co. Penni is the third female President in a row. The first was Darlene Gurnett, followed by Michelle Robertson and now Penni. All of their husbands have also previously served as the Niagara County Association Presidents.

Officers were installed by FASNY President Kenneth Pienkowski. He also then spoke on the recently approved New York State cancer legislation and the ongoing cancer research of volunteer firefighters.

The 2018 NCVFA Officers are President Penni Dysard, Cambria Fire Company; First Vice President Richard Silvaroli, Frontier Fire Co.; Second Vice President Glenn Christman, Wendelville Fire Co.; Third Vice President and Treasurer Arthur Kroening, Bergholz Fire Co.; Financial-Recording Secretary Bruce Geschwender, Sanborn Fire Co.; Sergeant-at-Arms John Voutour, Adams Fire Co.; and Junior Past President Michelle Robertson, Youngstown Fire Co.

FASNY Firemen’s Home Board of Trustees President David F. Schmidt installed the Ladies Auxiliary Officers: President Jane Twombly, Vice President Mary Jane Smith, Secretary Linda Kasprzak, Treasurer Ida Cowell, Two-Year Director Sharon McAvoy and One-Year Director Mary Sadlocka.

The Julius “Sonny” Staph Participation Award was presented by Glenn Christman to the Niagara County fire companies that had the most active members in Association work during the year. This year was a tie between Youngstown and Cambria Fire Companies.

The Richard Watson Leadership Award was presented by Art Kroening to a member in Niagara County for dedication to the volunteer fire service. The honoree is Robert Walker, St. Johnsburg Fire Co., with a resume of over five decades of service.

The Past Presidents Award was presented by President Dysard to Junior Past President Michelle Robertson, Youngstown Fire Co.

- The six volunteer companies in the North Tonawanda Fire Department held an Appreciation Night and Memorial Service on October 20 at Rescue Fire Co.’s Hall, with Columbia Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 hosting the event. During the Memorial Service, the names of 12 firefighters who passed away in the last year were read. They had provided 579 total years of service to the North Tonawanda FD.

In the program, Frontier Fire Chief Bruce Mack, the 2016-17 President of the WNYVFA, spoke about the value for fire service associations to volunteer firefighters.

Awards were presented to members of all six fire companies for various services and honors. Fire Chief Joseph Sikora presented the department’s Lifesaving Heroism Award to Matthew Gebera of Rescue Fire Co. No. 5.
Top Firefighter Responder and Meritorious Service Awards were presented to members of each company: Columbia Hook & Ladder No. 1 – Christopher Wildey and Raymond Dworzanski were awarded for Top Responder and Meritorious Service, respectively; Active Hose No. 2 – Eugene Moeller/Michael Piwtorak; Live Hose No. 4 – Cody Ott/David Gauda; Rescue Fire No. 5 – Matthew Gebbera/Donald Phelps; Gratwick Hose No. 6 – No Top Responder/James Lemek; Sweeney Hose No. 7 – Eugene Wiatr/Kevin Kozlowski; and Fire Police – David Evans/Michael Duval. David Evans also received an award for Meritorious Service.

On May 7, 1876, a group of citizens formed the first organized volunteer fire company in the then-village and called it the North Tonawanda Hook, Ladder & Bucket Co. Fortunately, the name changed to Columbia Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, which will be celebrating its 142nd anniversary in May 2018.

Several fire companies sell chowder each month as a fundraiser. What does your company or department do to raise funds each year?

Special Note: Thanks to Dave Evans for providing information for these articles. The NCVFA has two special members in Dave and Dan Evans, two diamonds who shine brightly when ask to help.

The Livingston County Volunteer Firefighter’s Association Installation Meeting was hosted by the Leicester Fire Department October 19. Past President and Firemen’s Home Trustee David J. Wolf installed the following officers for 2018: President Carl Offen, Caledonia; First Vice President Joseph Snyder, Dansville; Second Vice President Michael Bradley, Dansville; Treasurer Norman Gates, York; Recording Secretary Greg Horr, Dansville; Financial Secretary William Kershner, Dansville; Sergeant-at-Arms Joseph Montesano, East Avon; Chaplain Robert Ossont, Mt. Morris; Trustees Dean Smith (Mt. Morris) and Bill Potter (Dansville); Trustee to Western New York Stanley MacWilliams, Caledonia; Junior Past President William Kershner, Dansville; and Historian Fire Coordinator Kevin Neidermaier, Groveland.

The Firemen’s Memorial Exhibit Center is located at 4141 Seneca St. in West Seneca, Erie County, and open Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It is a great place to visit to see the history of firefighting. Special tours are available by calling President James J. Kavanaugh at (716) 674-5585.

Finally, readers may recall my last column included a section on a farewell dinner for Firefighters and Fire Police Officers Ross and Jeni Corser. As a point of clarification, the dinner was set up and the article written by Kathy D’Ambra, Monroe County Volunteer Fire Police Association Secretary.

I asked Kathy to write this article in her own words as she set up and coordinated this dinner. The article may have appeared to be written by me, but it was not. I wanted to make it known that Kathy wrote this part of my article.

I’ve been writing in my fire department and Cal-Mum Lions Club since 1969. In all these years, it has never been about me or taking credit for what I’ve written – it’s always to tell about others.

On that note: remember that we are people helping people; caring and sharing. As they give to us, we give in return.
As the holiday season has come and gone and winter has settled in, keep in mind that members throughout Northern New York have still been busy.

- Copenhagen is working on this coming year’s Convention. Volunteers in numerous departments are contributing to their communities and it is being noticed. Members attended FASNY’s legislative weekend and a report is to be given at the January meeting in Lowville.

Throughout the North Country, other organizations have been working to help volunteers in their own ways.

- Believe NNY is full steam ahead, having worked with Massena’s volunteer firefighters to raise $4,500 in a hockey tournament the weekend of November 3. A fundraiser is also set for February 10 at the Pit Stop Diner in North Lawrence. Details are on Believe NNY’s page.

This group has worked hard to help firefighters with life-threatening illnesses and their help has been noticed. This group is also continually looking for members who can help move the mission of this organization into other counties in the North Country. Anyone interested can visit their page to see how to help.

- Another organization that has recently started and has been working to help firefighters in the North Country is the Adirondack Volunteer Firefighters Benevolent Association. Although they have a mission a little different than that of Believe NNY, it is noticeable that volunteers are willing to help each other to fill gaps that would otherwise be left open.

I encourage all members of Northern New York Volunteer Firemen’s Association to visit both organizations’ Facebook pages and help them achieve their missions.

I have one request for members of our Sectional. After lengthy conversations on the matter, I would like to put out a challenge to departments in our Sectional. Come up with ideas on how to better retain members in our rural stations. We have heard a lot on how to recruit members, but now we need to hear how to keep them in our ranks.

Any positive ideas are worthy of consideration and with a membership as diverse as we have within our Sectional, I firmly believe that there are solutions out there to help keep the volunteer service alive and worthy for generations to come. Have a warm and safe winter.

– Nicholas Rolley, First Vice President

We begin my part of the column by congratulating two cancer survivors and hard workers for cancer patients and their families: Brian F. McQueen and Dale Barker. The organizations they formed are a beneficial part of the reason that the cancer bill was signed by the Governor. Please remember that the work has not stopped just because the bill was signed. They will continue to work for our fellow firefighters.

- A delegation was present for the Annual Dinner of the New York State Volunteer Firemen’s Parade and Drill Team Captains Association held in Albany in November. Paul Thomas was honored as a life member, Louisville was recognized for sportsmanship and James Henry and Tim Irey were installed as Area Rep and Second Vice President. The Rev. Canon Samuel P. Lundy, member of the FASNY Chaplains Committee and Director of the New York State Association of Fire Chaplains, assisted in the memorial for deceased members that included Lance Willix and Jane Wilcox.

- Various members from our area attended the Legislative Conference as well as the Drill Team meetings held during the weekend.

- It isn’t often we have a Line of Duty Death in the North Country. David Carr from the Brasher Winthrop Fire Department in St. Lawrence County answered his last alarm in November. The fire service did him and his family proud, as the funeral was well attended by many departments from the northern part of the state.

- Two of our Northern organizations met in Pamela for meetings in November. The Northern Parade and Drill Officials Association met for rules discussion and discussion of the past season as well as looking forward to 2018. It is hoped that some former officials as well as new ones will join the current group.

- The Northern New York Parade and Drill Team Captains Association also met to discuss and recommend the Drill and Parade Rules Committees in regard to what to vote on. Parade rules are voted by mail and State Drill rules will be addressed in Albany on January 20.

   The members present also reviewed the new vehicle to be used for timing. Committees were formed and lists will be provided to members by the Secretary upon request. It is a reminder that these are active committees and those who serve are asked to attend committee meetings as well as regular Association meetings. The Association will sponsor a practice drill in conjunction with officials training in the spring. This regular meeting was preceded by a Board meeting.

- Louisville will be host of the 2019 Northern Convention and has selected their dates, which will be a change from the usual. It will be held the last full weekend of June 2019.

   The Copenhagen Fire Department, hosts of the 2018 Northern Convention, has been meeting monthly to plan the event. A report will be given to the full membership at our January meeting. Also, departments will be receiving packets with information and blanks for various events.

   This month we conclude the column with a reminder that you may honor your firefighters with certificates from FASNY and the NNYVFA. You can contact the FASNY Office or Laurie Hance from Northern to receive them. Either organization can provide presenters as well.
Greetings from the Hudson Valley and a happy new year!

• At the Orange County Volunteer Firemen's Association November meeting, we had the honor and pleasure of meeting the OC Accelerant Detection Canine Walter and his handler, OC Investigator Justin Worden. Walter is a 2-year-old rescue dog that now has a new home in Orange County working with the Sheriff's Office to assist with the detection of an accelerant at a fire scene.

Walter and Investigator Worden completed their eight-week training program at the Fire Training Center in Montour Falls. They train several times each week, “detecting” various accelerants and continuing to bond as a team. A training session consists of multiple searches. An annual two-day re-certification course is mandatory for the team.

They have already conducted over 10 investigations together since May 2017. Their primary location is Orange County, but they also assist in Sullivan.

The funding for this program was through the Asset Forfeiture Program through the District Attorney’s Office.

• East Greenbush Fire Co. held their 23rd Annual Golf Outing on September 25. This annual event was supported by over 130 golfers during a record-breaking 90-degree day! The event was at the Winding Brook Country Club in Kinderhook. The 2018 event will be held in October.

• The Royal Order of the Red Vests held their annual elections on October 29, with the installment of President Nick Madore, First Vice President Yale Frank, Second Vice President Brad Gallotta, Secretary George Stacey, Financial Secretary John Bootz, Treasurer Phyllis Dinkelacker and Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Lansing. Congratulations to the new officers.

• The Royal Order of the Blue Vests held their meeting on October 15. They set their 2018 calendar as follows: Winter meeting on January 14 and Firemen's Home Day Program June 30.

• The Fire Police Association of Albany County held a very successful Walter W. Eck Bi-Annual Fire Police Training Seminar on March 14 and Firemen's Home Day Program June 30.

By the time you read this, the holiday season will be but a memory and we at the Hudson-Mohawk Volunteer Firefighter’s Association hope you enjoyed this season of hope and joy. As there are so many events and happenings during the holidays, it is impossible to cover them all. I will highlight events of the HMVFA and some of the member companies and departments in our area:

• The annual HMVFA Past President Dinner was held at the Fuller Road Fire Department on November 18 with approximately 50 members enjoying a great meal. Outgoing Auxiliary President Liz Chapman was honored for her service to the auxiliary. Among the many gifts she received were donations in her honor to the LAFASNY Birthday Parties that are held monthly at the FASNY Firemen's Home. Liz is one of the birthday ladies who travels to the Home once a month to have a birthday party for all members who were born in that month. Good job, ladies, and keep up the good work.

• On December 10, HMVFA members gathered at the Firemen's Home to share holiday greetings with the residents. Members of the HMVFA, the Ladies Auxiliary as well as the Royal Order of the Nighthawks spent time with the residents and enjoyed refreshments as well as a visit from Santa himself.

• On Christmas Eve, the Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association had their annual party for Firemen's Home members that included plenty of food, live music and a visit from the Jolly Old Elf himself, who gave every member a Christmas card from the County Association as well as a card from the County Ladies Auxiliary. Association President Laura Foster, Officers and Past Officers, as well as the Columbia County Fire Police Association, participated in this year’s event. I’ve been a part of this party for over 30 years and the expressions of joy and happiness on the Home members’ faces is priceless. It’s truly a heart-warming experience.

• In Albany County, the Annual ACVFA Muster was hosted by the Fort Hunter Fire Department on October 8. The Walter Eck Memorial Traveling Trophy was won by the Guilderland Fire Department, which also won Best Appearing Ladder Truck and Best Appearing Men's Color Guard. Slingerlands Fire Department won Best Antique and Best Appearing Pumper. The Fort Hunter FD was awarded for the Best Rescue Truck and Knox Fire Department took home Best Appearing Utility Vehicle accolades. Fort Hunter will host the 2018 Inspection Day. More information and entry forms will be available in the spring.

The 2018 Annual Dinner and Quarterly Meeting of the Albany County Volunteer Fireman’s Association will be hosted by the Altamont Fire Department September 19. Members are encouraged to make plans to attend. More information will be available at the March ACVFA meeting.
• HMVFA Past President Tom With has been appointed as FASNY Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. Tom is the Chaplain of the Fuller Road Fire Department in the Town of Colonie and was the first Chairman of the FASNY Ways and Means Committee. He is also a Past President of the Volunteer Fire Police Association of the State of New York. Congratulations, Tom.

I would like to acknowledge and thank John Webb, Editor of ACVFAs Albany County Report newsletter, for providing the Albany County information in this column.

Northern Central
Diana G. Pfersick
Rush • NY

On October 5, The Monroe County Volunteer Firemen’s Association participated in the Monroe County Annual Health and Fitness Fair. Attendees learned about fire and life safety. They also could learn to operate a fire extinguisher courtesy of Brockport Fire Department supplying the use of a Bullex Fire Extinguisher simulator.

October is the month that schools participate in a variety of Fire Prevention activities. Wayne Elementary School provided the students with many activities. A student was selected each day to get a ride to school via a fire truck. On October 11, the Lincoln Road Fire Department gave a lucky young lad a ride to school. He was all smiles as he departed the truck!

The Annual Joint Fire Service Leadership of Monroe County Firefighter Appreciation Dinner was held at the Diplomat Party House on October 12. This event honors both volunteer and career firefighters.

The event’s keynote address was given by Jared Meeker, who described an experience while driving the department-issued SUV. A 13-year-old ran out in front of him, resulting in the death of the boy. He shared that after deep depression and a great deal of therapy, he now has a mission of helping others who face similar tragedies.

Many awards were handed out that evening. The Monroe County Volunteer Firemen’s Association presented their Fire Educator of the Year award to Julian Rayburn of the St. Paul Boulevard Fire District.

Also honored that evening were the Rush and Honeoye Falls Fire Departments, which received a Unit Commendation Award for a complicated extrication on the very cold night in February of 2017 on Clover Street in Mendon.

The sheriff’s department reported that the vehicle was estimated to be going over 100 mph before it struck both a pole and tree. Fortunately, the operator had relatively minor injuries, but was trapped in the wreck.

Clifton Fire Department was also honored with a Unit Commendation Award for response to a very serious motor vehicle crash at Morgan and Scottsville-Chili Road also in February. That crash resulted in the death of an 8-year-old boy as well as two very serious injuries and two minor injuries.

EMS Life Saving Awards were presented to West Webster Fire Department Captain Mark Cholach, Lieutenant Brian Zimmer and Webster Fire Department Firefighter David Herrle that evening as well.

The Gold Seal Award is an award given to a firefighter who in the attempt of saving a life, puts his or her own life at risk. This award was presented Fairport Firefighter Michael Nixon. Lake Shore Fire District Past Chief Randy Jensen and Ms. Betsy Jensen along with John (Stephen) Grandusky of the West Webster Fire District were honored with the Mike Sadden Award which is an award that honors commitment, support and leadership over time.
• On October 21, the Northern Central Volunteer Firemen’s Association held its 68th Annual Banquet at the Palmyra VFW.

Second Assistant Chief Justin Ryan of the Amber Volunteer Fire Department was awarded the 2017 Northern Central Firefighter of the Year. His award was based on his actions taken at the scene of a crash on Route 80 in Tully.

Also honored was Pamela Fingar for her years of service as Secretary for the Association. All who attended had a very nice evening. Due to Pam’s retirement, Northern Central President David Sweet has appointed Terri Wallace as Northern Central’s Secretary.

Terri, a retired IT professional from SUNY Geneseo and member of the West Bloomfield Fire Department, also serves as Secretary for the Ontario County Firemen’s Association as well as Ontario County Fire Police.

• A 21-hour State Fire Police Recruit Class was held in October at the Monroe County Public Safety Training Facility. It attracted many participants, some already Fire Police as well as some new recruits. The class finished on October 28.

• Many departments and or auxiliaries held Halloween events. The Rush Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary outdid themselves with one room set up as a scary laboratory.

• On December 6, the Monroe County Ladies Auxiliary and Monroe County Volunteer Firemen’s Association held their annual Christmas party. All enjoyed a buffet dinner at the Penfield Fire Department. The weather added to the holiday spirit by adding snow to the evening travels!
• Northern Central has, in the past, held its Legislative Outreach in March, but this year has moved the program to January 20 at the Penfield Fire Department House No. 1 at 11:00 a.m. Their membership meeting will follow after lunch.

• Thomas Piazza received his award for 50 years of active service with the North Greece Fire Department, Monroe County, in December.

• The Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association was proud to host a seminar for the Junior Firefighters of Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

  About 195 Juniors along with adult advisors met at the Garden City Park Fire Department to participate in a training session by Chief Paul Hashagen. His hour lecture described the history, traditions and evolution of the fire service which began in the early 1700s.

  Chief Hashagen is the author of eight books, including Fire Department City of New York: The Bravest, An Illustrated History. He writes his column “Rekindles,” in Firehouse Magazine and a column “Distant Fires” for Fire Rescues Magazine. Hashagen is a member of the Firehouse Magazine Hall of Fame for his work as a fire historian and writer.

  His lecture was well-received by all present in the room and Southern New York thanks Paul, the Garden City Park FD and all those who attended and were educated by this presentation.

• The Nassau County Firemen’s Association is proud to announce that Michael Krummenacker has been appointed to the FASNY Board of Directors. We wish Mike good luck as he represents us on a State level.

• Congratulations to Michael F. Reid on completing his term as a FASNY Director. A celebration was held in his honor at the Coral House in Baldwin. We wish Mike good luck on any of his future ventures.

• Each year, the firefighters of Roslyn Rescue Fire Co. sponsor “Roslyn Rocks,” a doo-wop show, at Roslyn High School to raise funds for Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior. For the past 13 years, NCFF-OWW has been helping our wounded servicemen and women.

  This year's event in October raised $26,000. This was Roslyn Rescue's eighth show for wounded warriors and they have raised over $160,000, all of which is used for our wounded warriors.

In the above photo, the Chairpersons of Roslyn Rescue's event, Betty and Henry Krukowski, present the check to NCFF-OWW Chairman Joe O'Grady (Floral Park Fire Department) as, from left, NCFF-OWW Vice Chairman Steve Grogan (Lynbrook Fire Department), Secretary Terrence Powderly (Bellerose Fire Department) and Vice Chairman Mike Kushner (Stewart Manor Fire Department) join in. (NCFF-OWW Photo)
FIRE FIGHTER 50-YEAR CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

Presented during the month of November, 2017

Albany County
Shaker Road-Loudonville Fire Department, Inc.
Dick Horton 50 years

Columbia County
H. W. Rogers Hose Company No. 2
Richard Zinnanti 50 years

Delaware County
Walton Fire Department
James R. Jacob 56 years

Dutchess County
Lewis Tompkins Hose Company No. 1
Bill Asburn 50 years
Paul McGovern 50 years
Gary Mendes 50 years
Greene County
Catskill Fire Company
Paul Overbaugh 50 years

Nassau County
Inwood Fire Department
George Miller, Sr. 50 years

Locust Valley Fire Department
Engine Company No. 2
Iver Roslund 80 years

Rensselaer County
Best-Luther Volunteer Fire Department
Lawrence Glander 70 years

Schuyler County
Tyrone Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. 1
Ron Tormey 50 years

Suffolk County
Melville Volunteer & Exempt Firemen Benevolent Association
Sal Silvestri, Sr. 65 years
Al Silvestri, Sr. 63 years

Sullivan County
Fallsburg Fire Department
Arthur Coopersmith 50 years
Barry Gold 50 years
A.J. Pantel 50 years

Westchester County
Centennial Hose Company No. 4
Patricia S. Esposito 50 years
Joseph A. Masters 50 years
Richard Purdy 50 years

Presented during the month of October, 2017

Albany County
S. W. Pitts Hose Company, Inc.
Warren E. Carr, Sr. 50 years
Patrick Farrell 50 years

Jefferson County
Natural Bridge Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Gary L. Williamson 50 years

Madison County
Earlville Fire Company, Inc.
Arthur Garrison 50 years

Saint Lawrence County
Massena Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
Tom Macaulay 50 years

Suffolk County
Islip Fire Department
P. Bruce Daly 50 years
Melville Fire Department
James Coschignano, Jr. 50 years
Tom Pesce 50 years
John Wrobel, Sr. 50 years

Northport Volunteer Fire Department
Bruce Berglund 50 years
Riverhead Fire Department
Frank Densieski 50 years

Warren County
North Creek Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Bill Thomas 50 years

Westchester County
Columbia Engine and Hose Company No. 2
Eugene DeBourno, Jr. 50 years
Salvatore Pollaro 50 years

Port Chester Fire Patrol & Rescue Company No. 1
Robert Skorvanek 50 years

FIRE DEPARTMENT 100-YEAR CERTIFICATES

Presented during the month of November, 2017

Suffolk County
Euclid Hose Company No. 2 125 years

FASNY awards certificates to volunteer firefighters who have achieved 50 years in the volunteer fire service and also commemorates volunteer fire departments with 100 or more years of service to their communities. The certificates are issued by the Association Secretary and can be presented by a FASNY official upon request. There is no cost of any kind to the department or to the recipient.

The Volunteer Firefighter will run photos of presentations, space and quality of photo permitting. Please submit photos to photos@fasny.com within five days of the month the award is presented as the names must remain consistent with those listed in the current 50- and 100-year column.
Help FASNY recognize the best firefighters, EMS providers, youth groups, teachers, educators and community service volunteers in the fire service with these annual awards.


**FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

Honor your outstanding volunteers with a nomination for this award, which recognizes the bravest FASNY members who exemplify what the fire service and protecting our communities are all about.

All fire departments, companies, sectional and county organizations are encouraged to submit an application.

Sponsored by:


**EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR**

Honor your outstanding volunteers with a nomination for this award, designated for emergency medical personnel who provide exemplary service.

All EMS units across the state are encouraged to submit an application.

Sponsored by:


**YOUTH GROUP OF THE YEAR**

This award recognizes the youth fire organization that best embodies a dedication to both fire and community service.

**FIRE SERVICE COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Volunteer firefighters have the courage to face danger and the heart to help out in their communities. On the fireground or around town, so many continue to give and sacrifice beyond the fire service every day. FASNY honors an active volunteer firefighter who is also active with one or more community service organizations with this award.

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

FASNY invites communities and schools across the state to honor their best fire prevention educators. The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee recognizes a teacher with dedication to fire prevention and the safety of students and their families.

Sponsored by:

**Hannigan Law Firm PLLC**

**FIRE SAFETY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

FASNY invites departments and organizations across the state to honor their best fire safety advocates. The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee recognizes an educator with dedication to fire prevention and the safety in his or her community.

Sponsored by:

**Mark C. Butler, PLLC**

Visit www.fasny.com for applications and information.
NEW MEMBERS

Albany County
North Bethlehem Fire Department, Inc.
Tyler Kirk
Verdy Volunteer Fire Association, Inc.
Mike Ambrosio Cory Germaine Jonathan Krill Kevin Rose

Allegany County
Oramel Volunteer Fire Department
Christine VanOrman Matthew Stayton Ariana Raymond Michael Porter Joseph Hughes Megan Cuddeback Aimee Scott Edward Robinson Patrick Redmond Dana Franklin Genoa Fire Department, Inc.

Bronx County
Bronx Volunteer Fire Patrol Co. 4
Thaddeus A. Brailsford

Broome County
Hillcrest Fire Company, Inc.
Corey Hanson Devin Reitz Brendyn Savage

Cattaraugus County
Dayton Volunteer Fire Company
Bruce Drazem David Lindberg Estie Santana

Delaware Volunteer Fire Company
Megan Boyer Chris Hazeltine Haley Hazeltine Kamryn Kenny Tammy Krzyzanowski

Kenney Hose Company, Inc.
Bradley Everets Phil Gardner

Perrysburg Volunteer Fire Company No. 1
Kathy Reese Smith Connie Soroky Levi Wolfe

Randolph Fire Company, Inc.
Mitchell Rowland

Cayuga County
Genoa Fire Department, Inc.
Dana Franklin Patrick Redmond Edward Robinson Aimee Scott Kalib Shels

New Hope Fire Department
Megan Cuddeback Joseph Hughes Michael Porter Ariana Raymond Matthew Stayton Christine VanOrman

Scipio Volunteer Fire Department
Amber Black Matthew Radcliff Charles Ryan
Throop Fire Department, Inc.

Weedsport Fire Department
Dillon Hunter

Chautauqua County
Hanover Hose Co. No. 1
Mike Burghardt Dewitt Chamberlin Melissa Chamberlin Kayla Doner Mike Pollock Jeff Smith

Cumberland County
Big Flats Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Hannah E. Dickinson Kenneth S. Mattison, Sr. Sarah Mullaney
Emirah Heights Fire Co. No. 1
Kieran Coffey Bruce R. DeDominick Morgan Evans Amir Kamas Richard Kingsley Christopher Kokes Justin Lee Chuck Rose James Worthington

Millport Fire Department
Donovan Reilly Richard Salisbury Joe Stone

Southport Volunteer Firemen, Inc.
Zachary Lochkart Michael McCormick Charles Niles Josh Reesor Matthew Wintjen Dakota Zwanka

Chenango County
Greene Fire Department
Corfarr Joshua Gerst Jonathan McArdell Michael Paquette Theresa Yajko

McDonough Volunteer Fire Department
Martha Thompson

Clinton County
Champlain Volunteer Fire Department
Justin Gay

Scipio Volunteer Fire Department
Patricia Marie Lapan Natasha Nevius

Peru Volunteer Fire Department
Christopher Baker Adam Brawn Gerald Corbett Tyler Irwin Colter Koch Aleksey Longino Margaret Meyer Courtney Parsons Walter Wells Wayne Wells

Plattsburgh District No. 3, Fire Department
Austin Devins Tim Lord Mark Ryan

Columbia County
Clermont Fire Company, Inc.
Lloyd Kukon

Kinderman Fire Department
Patrick Harbron Stuyvesant Falls Fire Company No. 2
Joe Belline Montgomery Bopp Rick LaCrosse Megan Tuzyynski

Taghkanic Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1
Riley Clark Vincent G. Kobos, Jr.
Tri-Village Fire Company, Inc.
Sara Clough Frank Curran

Cortland County
McGraw Fire Department
Wesley Baker Morris Hallstead Daniel Moore Shawn Reed

Preble Fire Department
Kyra Doody

Delaware County
Sidney Center Fire Department
Joshua Newell

Dutchess County
Chelsea Fire Company, Inc.
Shantell Blash Karter Kearns Angelica Guerrero Pulido Andrew Shulman

Roosevelt Engine Company No. 3
Kaitlyn Abercrombie Vincent Brier Michael Brown Jaqueline Daniels Antwydiamla Edmonds Angela Hackett Heidi Herzelf Kathryn Lovett John Ronk, Jr. Michael Skapetis

Jurgen Swensen Yuan Zhuang

Erie County
Armor Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Kayla Bayla Christian Buczak Lisa Dobson William Petersen Frank Rosati Tyler Schultz Michael Zielinski

Doyle Volunteer Hose Company No. 2
Christopher Dolina Matthew Kenefick

East Amherst Fire Department, Inc.
Vincent Bargnes Carli Cardinale Mark Gedeon Joshua Guidic Paul Hart Joseph Rowley Jeffrey Tamsen Brian Turner

Grand Island Fire Company, Inc.
Richard Nichols Dan McCarthy Ben Shaw Jeremy Stepp Paul Valera

Lake View Volunteer Association, Inc.
Laura Masullo Dan McCarthy Mike Pieszak Max Pirotta Patrick Stockman

Pine Hill Hose Company No. 5, Inc.
Nicholas Kelley Rayshawn Lewis Raymond Lloyd Derek Szpaicher

Essex County
Schoon Lake Fire Department
Kyle Hayden Pat Murphy

Franklin County
Constable Volunteer Firemen, Inc.
Michael Abare Michael Nichols Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Daryl Bryer Nate Jones Michael Knapp

Fulton County
Oppenheim Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Ashley Jaquay Joseph Keba, Jr. Edward Meleski

Jury Nichols Stratford Volunteer Fire Company Roger Nichols Mary Szczezak Peter Szczezak George Wineberg

Genesee County
Leroy Fire Department, Inc.
Stephan Carr Travis J. Hurd

Greene County
Leeds Hose Company No. 1, Inc.
Lloyd Van Dyke

Medway-Grapeville Fire Department
Kristina Vitale

Hamilton County
Indian Lake Volunteer Fire Department
Bryce Hutchins

Inlet Volunteer Hose Company Becky Townsend

Herkimer County
Dolgeville Volunteer Fire Department
Matt Allen Cody Conner

Newport Volunteer Fire Company No. 4
Nick Ford Brandon Roberts

Jefferson County
Adams Fire Department
Austin Kellogg Brett Lalone Matthew Place Khris Smith

Felt's Mills Fire Company
Jakob Gadd Paul Helm, Jr. Dalton Johnson Lisa Mahoney Romeo Stephens

Natural Bridge Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Elizabeth O’Meara

Northpole Fire Company, Inc.
Chase Alexander Joshua Brett Jenna Drappo Calvin Elder Joseph Morris Ethan Parker L.J. Young

Madison County
Bridgeport Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Richard Amato Sarah Palmatier Anthony Smith

Cazenovia Hook & Ladder Company
Justin Fuchs Peter McCole
New Members

Atlantic Steamer Company
Tom Swart
Austin Wood
Chittenango Fire Company, Inc.
Michael Lavoie
Bob Smith
Earlville Fire Company, Inc.
Rick Crowell
Joel Partridge
Amberlie Sherry
Brandon Thornton
Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department
Noah Claxton
Chris Gardener
Michael Gough, II
Jaycob Kilts
Cade Miller
Samantha Relyea
Hunter Snell
Brian Whitcombe
North Brookfield Fire Department
Mary-Kate Rugne
Owaghena Hose Company
Joe McLaughlin
Tyler Stephenson
Monroe County
Chili Fire Department, Inc.
Ben Brower
Peter DeColle
Jamie Gilbert
Blake Herring
Brennan Vergas
Jacob Wine
Honeoye Falls Fire Department
Leah Dalton
Peg Potter
Danielle Vandenbarg
Maggie Young
Ryan Zimmer
Rush Fire Department, Inc.
Zackary Dubois
Josh Gretzinger
William Stanton
West Webster Volunteer Firemen Association, Inc.
Cameron Antonelli
Sarah Boldt
Collin Disenroth
Mark Duheme
Broghan Enright
Cole Kloes
Zachary La Valley
Chelsey Rice
Michael Rieger
Kerrin Schneider
Ryan Zinn
Nassau County
Atlantic Hook & Ladder Company No. 1
Harry Basham
Christian Castillo
Nicholas Hagedorn
Andrew Piacquadio
Brandon Sax
Atlantic Steamer Company
No. 1
James Ceglia
Nitin Mariwalla
Keith Mushorn
Naresh Verlander
Ryan Whelan
Bellmore Fire Department
David Chen
Ioannis Pashalidis
James S. Rand
East Meadow Fire Department
David Chen
East Norwich Volunteer Fire Company No. 1
Vincent Lombardo
James Morace
Sam Perricone
Michael Vosseler
East Norwich Volunteer Fire Company No. 4
Justine Colvin
Jake Dimatos
Daniela Galatro
John Maloney
Robert Morris
East Rockaway Volunteer & Exempt Benevolent Association
Bob Smillie
Garden City Park Fire Dept.
Truck Co. No. 1
Nick Martinez
Hicksville Hook & Ladder Company No. 6
Sanjot Othal
Hicksville Protection Hook & Ladder Company No. 1
Kyle Blazo
Locust Valley Fire Department
Engine Company No. 2
Gabe Rhorberg
Lynbrook Engine Company No. 1
Brendan O’Reilly
Nick Pallimino
Lynbrook Tally-Ho Chemical Engine Company No. 3
Thomas Duignan
North Merrick Fire Department
John Briones
Christian Campana
Nicholas Frazer
Jared Mandel
Terrance McCauley
Scott McLaughlin
Peter Roberto
Plandome Fire Department
Gus Petropoulus
Todd Qui
Keith Zenobio
Rockville Centre Reliance Hose Company No. 3, Inc.
Ross D. Lynch
Seaford Fire Department
Brian Beehler
Morgan Chipurnoi
Connor Coglan
John Diachok
Nicole Esposito
Caitlyn Silverman
Valley Stream Volunteer & Exempt Firemen’s Benevolent
Mark Argona, Jr.
Fernando I. Campoverde
Jean Charles, Jr.
Benjamin Claude
Alexander Donnell
John K. Kenny
Christopher Leonardo
Winston Meikle
Andres D. Ospina
Johnny Reyes
Joseph N. Tomaszewski
Vulcan Chemical & Hose Company of Lynbrook, Inc.
Scott Ericksen
Woodmere Fire District
Mitchell Froelich
Melanie Kail
Judah Karkowsky
Israel Max
David Stern
Niagara County
Miller Hose Company, Inc.
Karley Niezgoda
Onedia County
Durhamville Fire Department
Dean Gerken
Karissa Robinson
Kristen Worden
Tod Worden
Floyd Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
Sean Belye
Josh Clemens
Paige Stark
New York Mills Fire Department
Steven A. Czeck
Corina Edick
David Supernant
Vienna Fire Department, Inc.
Joshua Donaldson
James Shaugnessy
Willowdale Fire Company, Inc.
Eric Canfield
Ryan Dittmar
Viktoria Lyubezhanin
Onondaga County
Baldwinsville Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Kevin Berler
Tonya Sweet
Casey Vanderwater
East Syracuse Fire Department
William Browne
Joshua Miller
William Mosher
Gregory Tremont
Fairmount Fire Department
Daniel Zollo
Fayetteville Fire Department
Roger Hiemstra
Jessica A. Hogle
Bradley Hudson
Jesse Jensen
Derrick Lee
Daniel Strathdee
Sean Tanny
Linda S. Vaught
Jamesville Fire District
Justin Corcoran
Lakeside Fire Department
Zachary Lee Chrysler
Brett Pidkaminy
Liverpool Fire Department
Tavaughn M. Barrot
Steven A. De La Riva
Nathan D. Murray
Tyler Nelson
Khairi C. Philip
Dominick J. Santoro
Christopher J. Sweeney
Minoo Fire Department
Mickey Craver
Cadey Engineer
Dominic Erard
Hunter Matthes
Melissa Popenfuss
Skyler Poulette
Amanda Rocco
Ian Rudd
Mattville Fire Company, Inc.
Tara E. Dennee
Nedrow Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
Tristan Moses
John Smith
Treswan Washington
Pompey Hill Volunteer Fire Department
Stuart Lewis-King
Orange County
Monroe Lakeside Fire & Rescue Company
Kyle Garet Strauss
Wawayanda Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Kyle Robert Schmick
Orleans County
Shelby Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Devin Albome
Charles Arnett
Jeff Arnett
Charles Barton
Andy Benz
Nick Brown
Nick Diurea
Tom Falls
Timothy Fearly
John Fike
Ryan Fuller
Karl Haist
Dave Hellert
Lee Hellert
Dan Horner
Joe Kyle
Lori Kyle
Gary Lamar
Mike Lamar
Patrick McGrath
Joshua McKeehen
John Miller, III
Miranda Miller
David J. Moden
Crystal Petry
Dave Petry
Dawn Petry
Scott Petry
Timothy Petry
Zack Petry
Jake Queckenbush
Jessica Reigle
John Rotolli
Dunn Shaffer
Ron Smith
Dylan Sturtivant
Hunter Sturtivant
Domonic Viterna
Vinnie Viterna
Andy Watts
Dale Watts
Gary Watts
Howard Watts
Jason Watts
Marcus Watts
Mark Watts
Mike Watts
Nicole Watts
Phil Watts
Jim Way
Oswego County
Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department
Peter Alexander Bullock
Evan Burnick
Matt Burnham
Dave Buske
Matt Germain
Andrew Michaud
David Pippin
Brady Slimmer
Otsego County
C. H. Graham Hose Company
Alexander Brundidge
Jennifer Case
Gary Dubios
Janet Kitchens
Carol Kreuzer
Alessandro Muscolo
Cooperstown Fire Department
Garrett Johnson
Nicolas Marquez
Nicholas Mondello
McKayla Slater
Eagle Fire Engine & Hose Company
Daniel Backman
Jason Dunham
William Miller
Mallory Robinson
Sydney Swift
Nate Tiffany
Hartwick Fire Department, Company 2
Cassandra Bryant
West Oneonta Fire Department, Inc.
Michael G. Morton
John L. Quick
Continued on next page.
NEW MEMBERS

Putnam County
Putnam Valley Volunteer Fire Department
Thomas Faraone, Sr.
David Pawlina

Richmond County
Oceanic Hook & Ladder Company No. 1
James Amato

Saratoga County
Clifton Park Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
Robert Adams, Jr.
Daniel Bense
Jonathan Binner
Erwin Bonostro
George Brown
Steffen Buck
Joseph Cebula
Rich Coonrad
John Cuttita
Joseph Daly
Robert Daly
Jimler Francois
William A. Gates
Thomas Gray
James Hassert
Ryan Hasset
Justin Hayes
Marcus Hunsinger
Robert Jakubowski
Dean Knight
Vincent LaBarbera
David Lucarelli
Kenneth Mack Marshall
Thomas Meehan
Thomas Monticup
Jason Mura
Michael Murdza
Eric Ophardt
David Pengeliski
Ryan Peruzzi
Anthony Praga
Jeffrey Proctor
Fabio Ritmo
Anitra Santoro
Matt Schaffer
Joseph Somers
Todd Spinner
Greg Stevens
Trevor Thurman
Scott Trefethen
Ryan Triller
John Van Chance, Jr.
Kevin Van Chance
Christopher Wasielewski
John Wasielewski
Christopher Weber

Clifton Park-Halfmoon Fire District 1
Nicholas Demarco, Jr.

Harmony Corners Volunteer Fire Department
Julia Holbrook

Malta Ridge Volunteer Fire Company
Barry Edward Bonney, Jr.

Schenectady County
Fort Hunter Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
James Caruso
Ryan McClusky
Corey Rivers

Thomas Corners Volunteer Fire Department
Nicholas Borysewicz
Brian Cieslak

Schoharie County
Odessa Fire Department
Cindy Durley
Lynsay Ruocco

Steuben County
Arkport Hose Company No. 1
Casey Woodvine

Citizens Hose Company, Inc.
Joe Chase
Cameron McConnell

North Cornning Volunteer Fire Department
William Atherton
Raymond Barnes
Matt Cook
Harry Cross
Jacob Locke
Cade Mahnke
Daryl Rose
Tracy Rose
Cameron Smith
David Smith
James Sites

North Hornell Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Calista Herbert
Thomas Lafferty
Eric Miller

Troupsburg Volunteer Fire Company
Kimberly Kegolis
Cory Newcomb
Trevor Tompkins

Suffolk County
Bohemia Fire Department
Thomas Caputo
Nicholas Delgado
Brendan McGrath
Anthony Norvell

Center Moriches Fire Department
Dean Madigan

Cherry Grove Fire Department
Jenny Mandelino

Dixion Engine Company No. 3
Justin Booker
Wyatt Brooks

East Northport Fire Department, Inc.
Scott Basantes
Dino Lopez
Philip Macedonio
Hauppauge Volunteer Fire Department
Anthony Andersen
Nicholas Ericson
Jalin Flores

Tori Johnston
Paul Massa
William Meeks
Vincent Mennella
Edward Minder, Jr.
John Munro
Steven Piccirillo
Jacob Rella
Stephanie Sattanino
Mendel Teldon
Edward Vigneaux

Islip Fire Department
Tyler Devita
Michael Fitall
Thomas Leggio, Jr.
Thomas Matther
Nicholas Mica
Ryan Moore
Steven Salerno

Lakeland Fire Department, Inc.
George Monica

Manville Fire Department Company No. 4
Frank Luciano
Louis Ortega

Medford Fire Department
Jason Dirks
Juan Garcia
Robert Griffin
Lawrence Hughes
Michael Moore
James Torres
Miguel Villafane, Jr.

Miller Place Volunteer Exempt Firemen's Benevolent
Billy Geis
Thomas Holmes
Joe LeDeoux
Kyle Matura
Kyle Negrin
Marlina Sherman

Montauk Fire Department
Christopher Conroy
Will Hamilton
London Rosiere
Eddie Schnell
Helen Trumbull
Emerald Trumbull

Nissequogue Fire Department
Jodi Christophides
Mary Conrad
Tom Faulhaber
Amanda Knott
Dian Knott
Gwyneth Knott
Oonagh Knott
Kenneth Spielman
Ian Winkeler

North Lindenhurst Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
Stephen Alexinas
Kevin Back
Andrew Baranowski
Michael Baltho
Keith Bird
Vincent Bogert
Susan Bosak
Sarah Boujida
Joseph Caputo
Kimberly Cardinal
Michael Colfer
John E. Conlin
Christopher Connell
Kevin Connell
John DeBlasio
Dexter DelRosario
Peter DeMayo
James DeSetto
John DeStefano
Vincent DiCecco
Joseph DiGaetano
Aziz Dursun
Richard Eisenberg
John English
Robert F. Etheron
Brandon Evensen
Stephen Falco
Corey Finn
Kevin Fowler
Kevin Galuszka
Frank Gandiosi
Brian Gassen
James Gilliland
Margaret Gilliland
Brian Goldblum
Juan Guerrero
Leon Gumowski
Rebecca Gumowski
Rebecca Hassel
John Hennigan
Ryan Hiller
Steven Hollis
Michael Horan
Kirk Johanson
Jeffrey Johnson
Ronald Kestenbaum
Edward Kicinski
Marlena Kowal
Paula Ziajuk
George Leavey
John Legutko
Michael B. Leite
Michael LoCasto
Anthony LoGullo
Shawn Lugens
John Maes
Bianca Marrone
Lisa Masching
Peter Maslinski
Jason Munsey
Carl Newman
Michael P. Newman
John Nuzzi
Stephanie Nwosu
Christopher Obrock
Richard Patiri
Maricelle Pena
A. Raccomandato
Daniel Raccomandato
Heni Ramos
Shannon Rieders
Oz Rodriguez
Jerry Roldan
Kyle Rugino
Anna Sadowska
Megan Schafer
Timothy Schneider
Cirino Sexto
Christopher Shataka
Daniel Shook
David Shook
Ryan Singer

Walter Singer
John Smalling
David Spinazzola
Kenneth M. Stallone
Charles Steiger
Harry Stolberg
Jakub Tarlecki
Joseph Tetonic
Lillie Titcomb
Kenneth VanCott
Charles Verdolino

Ocean Bay Park Fire Department
Thomas Macabbee
Donall Winters

Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Department
Michelle Gross
Max Sherman
James Sozomeno

Rocky Point Fire Department
Eugene Buchner
Heather Trapani

Selden Fire Department
Cameron Reis Carbone

Smithtown Fire Department, Inc. Company 1
Michael Farino
David Haase
William Madden
James Wallmuller

Smithtown Fire Department, Inc. Company 5
Kyle Oswald

St. James Fire Department
Vito Impastato
Francesca Mussumeci
Michael Riddle
Conor Ryan

West Babylon Fire Department
Kathleen Cathy
Edward Cormier
Caspar Liberati
William Martinez
William Massey
Scott McDevitt
Emily Morales
Ismail Sayan

West Sayville Fire Department, Inc.
Robert Cabano
Scott Devine
Joseph Dilibasi
Anthony Gugliuzza
Thomas Rinelli
Robert Sparks
Zachary Sparks
Eric Wilson
## Westhampton Beach Fire Department
- Robert Eckles
- James Pincott
- Daniel Pulick

## Sullivan County
- Narrowburg Fire Department, Inc.
  - Shawn Gill
  - Dewey Tyler

## Tioga County
- West Danby Fire Department
  - Skyler Carlyle
  - Sharine Sukhnanand
  - April Warner
  - Jesse Warner
  - Shawn Wendt
  - Jordan Wrisley

## Tompkins County
- Varna Volunteer Fire Company
  - Brad Bostrom
- Cedar Grove Fire Company, Inc.
  - Kyle Rompella

## Ulster County
- Marlboro Hose Company No. 1
  - Michael Collins
  - Thomas Coupart
  - John Vandenberg

## Warren County
- Bolton Fire Department
  - Jonathan Baker
- Johnsbury Volunteer Fire Co.
  - Donald Carpenter
  - James Jones
  - Scott Monthony
  - Kyle Mulligan
  - Josh Virgil

## Westchester County
- Armonk Independent Fire Company, Inc.
  - John More O’Hanlon
- Buchanan Engine Company No. 1, Inc.
  - Andrew Grant
  - Leah Grant
  - Thomas Grant

## West Harrison Independent Fire Company No. 1
- Ray Naldini

## Yates County
- Branchport/Keuka Park Fire Department
  - Benjamin Fingar
  - Bill Gage

## Youth and Explorers
- Cattaraugus County
  - Perrysburg Volunteer Fire Company No. 1
  - Chase Cooper
  - Jacob Corbin

## Monroe County
- Rush Explorer Post 634
  - Tom Dunon
  - Kevin McCory
  - Jonathan Phillips

## Niagara County
- Bergholz Fire Company
  - Cole Patrick Kish
- Mottville Fire Company, Inc.
  - Kyleigh E. Kinsella

## Oswego County
- Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department
  - Nick DeSacia
  - Jason Katchman
  - Phillip Kelly
  - Dakota Sinclair

## Suffolk County
- Smithtown Fire Department
  - Explorer Post 420
  - Sean Arthur Sulton

## West Harrison Independent Fire Company No. 1
- Ray Naldini

## West Babylon Fire District
- Frankie Latragna
  - Andre Ruppel

## Wyoming County
- Strykersville Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
  - Jacob James Speyer

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