

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 145TH ANNUAL
CONVENTION OF THE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD FROM THE 10TH DAY OF
AUGUST THROUGH THE 12TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2017, AT
HOLIDAY INN, 441 ELECTRONICS PARKWAY, VILLAGE OF
LIVERPOOL, NEW YORK.

August 10, 2017

B E F O R E: Kenneth M. Pienkowski, President

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2 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Good morning.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

4 MR. PIENKOWSKI: The exits are located to
5 your right and left. If there is an alarm, it
6 will be announced from the dais. Directions will
7 be given from the podium to exit the ballroom in
8 an orderly fashion.

9 At this time I would ask that you silence
10 your cell phones, and please, there will be no
11 food or drinks allowed in the meeting room during
12 the memorial service and the general sessions.

13 During those sessions everyone must be seated.

14 As part of the memorial service I would
15 also ask that all members of FASNY Board of
16 Directors and the Trustees from the Firemen's
17 Home please rise when a past President, member of
18 the Board of Directors, or Trustee from the
19 Firemen's Home is named in the necrology. Thank
20 you.

21 We are now about to begin our annual
22 memorial service. Please welcome FASNY Chaplain
23 Wayne F. Jagow.

24 (Whereupon, the colors were posted by the
25 Solvay Fire Department.)

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2 (Whereupon, the National Anthem was sung by
3 Harmony Katz.)

4 (Whereupon, the Memorial Service was
5 conducted.)

6 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Good morning. Welcome to
7 the annual meeting of the Firemen's Association
8 of the State of New York.

9 Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance
10 led by Sergeant-at-Arms Kenneth J. Holmes, Sr.

11 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was
12 recited by Sergeant-at-Arms Kenneth J. Holmes,
13 Sr., and the audience members.)

14 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Sergeant-at-Arms Holmes,
15 do we have a quorum?

16 MR. HOLMES: Mr. President, we do have a
17 quorum.

18 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you. We're going to
19 move from the agenda very quickly here. Senator
20 DeFrancisco was good enough to be with us this
21 morning for the memorial service. He's a busy
22 individual, and he has another commitment. He's
23 a great supporter of the volunteer fire service
24 here in Onondaga County and the State of New
25 York, and it gives me great pleasure and an

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2 opportunity to introduce a friend to all of us,
3 Senator John DeFrancisco.

4 (Applause.)

5 SENATOR DEFRANCISCO: First of all, welcome
6 to Central New York. I represent parts of
7 Onondaga, most of Onondaga, and parts of Cayuga
8 County. It's a great area. It's a great place
9 for a convention, and I'm sure you're going to
10 have a wonderful time. Secondly, I've been to
11 the memorial services before, but this one was to
12 me very moving. I don't know why, maybe because
13 I'm getting older, but it was moving in several
14 respects. The Harmony Katz were absolutely
15 unbelievable. The main message by Reverend Lundy
16 was very inspirational, and I'll keep mine short
17 as well. I think the part that was most moving
18 was listening to the names. There are an awful
19 lot of names there, an awful lot of names there,
20 and it seems to be getting to be more names every
21 year, and I think that the message to me is not
22 only to honor them and their memory, but also
23 that we've got to make sure in the state
24 legislature and government in general to make
25 sure that firefighters are well taken care of,

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2 their issues are resolved so we understand, all
3 of us understand, that value of volunteer
4 firefighters who give so much more than they have
5 ever taken.

6 So with that said, I want to help to
7 memorialize all of those who have passed away and
8 pledge that I will continue my support as I go on
9 in government.

10 Thank you very much.

11 (Applause.)

12 (Whereupon, a museum video was played.)

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. PIENKOWSKI: To start the annual
15 convention of the Firemen's Association this is
16 the fourth year that we started off with a video
17 of what FASNY is all about. The FASNY Museum of
18 Firefighting is on the Hudson campus of the
19 Firemen's Home.

20 The FASNY Capital Projects Committee has
21 been diligently working on a number of capital
22 projects at the FASNY Hudson campus. This past
23 winter the administration building was
24 demolished. FASNY is also well underway, as of
25 this week, in building our new multipurpose

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2 building. This building will replace our two
3 aging pavilions for county days and other events
4 for the members of the FASNY Firemen's Home.

5 The demolition of the administration
6 building was the first step in making way for our
7 expansion of the FASNY Museum of Firefighting in
8 the not so distant future. This will be a
9 welcome addition that will enable FASNY and the
10 museum to continue to tell and preserve the New
11 York State volunteer firefighter's story and the
12 history of the fire service. The addition will
13 also pave the way to expand the museum's
14 firefighting collection and influence its ability
15 to display the missing decades of the 1970's and
16 beyond. It will also provide the infrastructure
17 for the museum to continue to be the leading
18 firefighting museum in the country providing
19 educational programming on fire prevention and
20 being the stewards of our volunteer firefighting
21 tradition.

22 At this time, I would like to introduce
23 Jamie Smith Quinn, Executive Director of the
24 FASNY Museum of Firefighting for a presentation.
25 Jamie, please.

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2 (Applause.)

3 MS. QUINN: Thank you. Today I would like
4 to talk to you about vision. Many people throw
5 that word around lightly, but really it's
6 something few people have. Few people can see
7 the big picture. They're often weighed down by
8 the day-to-day, and that's why it's really
9 amazing that in 1925 when offered the first few
10 pieces of apparatus from the old New York City
11 volunteer firemen FASNY had the vision to create
12 a museum. Although the museum functioned as
13 little more than a warehouse for many, many
14 years, the last 10 years I've seen the museum
15 evolve into an interactive museum with exhibits
16 that tell the story of New York State volunteer
17 firefighters, your story. Exhibits include then,
18 now, and always; social favor and a local flavor;
19 fire in the valley; Currier and Ives, and many
20 more. We also have installed interactive
21 components, including the junior firefighter
22 challenge, the bucket brigade challenge, and the
23 virtual ride to the scene fire engine experience.
24 These exhibits and interactive components keep
25 the museum relevant and modern and helped us to

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2 be the leader in fire museum interpretation.

3 This coming winter we will open yet another new
4 exhibit entitled "pump it up," which will
5 showcase how water gets to the scene and how it's
6 pumped, all presented in an interactive format.

7 I venture to guess that even some of your more
8 seasoned firefighters will learn something from
9 this exhibit, but these are not the only changes
10 that have occurred at the museum in the last 10
11 years or so. The museum has gone from a virtual
12 absence of public programming to a thriving
13 school tour program; monthly fire prevention
14 programs, summer programs, and multiple school
15 programs for after school. The museum is the
16 only entity, to my knowledge, that presents fire
17 safety and prevention through distance learning,
18 and those programs have grown tremendously over
19 the last few years; and of course, we have our
20 signature event, Dalmatian Day, where 2,000 of
21 our closest friends come for the day to learn
22 fire prevention and safety concepts. Other
23 projects we've completed include, but are not
24 limited to, developing a new museum logo,
25 developing institutional forms and policies for

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2 the museum, such as mission and vision
3 statements, collection policies, disaster plans,
4 interpretive plans, and much more. We have
5 cataloged the entire collection in a modern
6 museum database system, which includes pictures
7 and condition reports for every artifact. We
8 started and we've grown the museum membership
9 program. We installed a POS system in the gift
10 shop making it profitable. We have redone and
11 expanded the museum website. We've installed a
12 discovery room with interactives. We have
13 completely moved around all the apparatus to
14 place them in groups to prepare them for upcoming
15 exhibits; and most importantly, we have instated
16 museums' best practice standards for collection
17 care, included the rescue of artifacts to ensure
18 their longevity. All of these actions have
19 resulted in the museum receiving its absolute
20 charter from the state of New York, which had
21 eluded the museum for many, many years and was
22 crucial if the museum was to continue to operate
23 as a museum in the state of New York.

24 All of these positive changes have resulted
25 in admissions to the museum more than tripling in

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2 the last 10 years. That's growth unheard of in
3 the museum world and for any attraction for that
4 matter. The museum has also been recognized with
5 multiple awards for excellence from various
6 museum associations, and the museum was
7 recognized nationally by the NFPA as the leader
8 in modern fire. We have secured local and
9 national attention for the museum with interviews
10 and by contributing regularly to firematic
11 publications. We have also been the recipient of
12 over 50 grant awards for projects. Most of the
13 exhibits I spoke about were at least partially
14 funded by grant awards. We have literally packed
15 25 years of growth in a short 10 year span, and
16 the results speak for themselves.

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18 Together each generation of FASNY
19 leadership and membership has always had the
20 vision to create additions to the museum to
21 ensure the history of the volunteer firefighter
22 in New York state would be told in its entirety
23 then, now, and always. I applaud the leadership
24 of FASNY for again having that vision. Of
25 course, I am referring to the announcement by
President Pienkowski that there will soon be

1 another addition to the museum. Thank you,
2 President Pienkowski, you are a man of vision.
3 You imagine not what the museum is just today,
4 but what it can be, and thank you for your
5 continued commitment to preserving the history
6 and tradition of the volunteer fire service in
7 New York state. Thank you also to past President
8 McConville for being the engine that made this
9 project move forward and for his boundless energy
10 for this project. It's just amazing. And thank
11 you to FASNY foundation president, Steve Klein,
12 for always, always being a supporter of the
13 museum and this project as well. This addition
14 is vital to the museum for many reasons. First
15 of all, because we do not have any fire apparatus
16 beyond the '70's. This is a gap of almost 50
17 years in collecting. This leaves a huge hole in
18 the collection. This addition will ensure that
19 the firefighters of the recent past, their
20 methods and apparatus, will be represented at the
21 museum. Maybe it seems incredible to you to
22 think the recent methods will not be preserved,
23 but there come a time when electronic devices
24 will be used instead of hoses to put out fires,
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2 and exoskeletons will be used instead of turnout
3 gear. Sounds like science fiction? People are
4 working on these technologies at this very
5 moment. It may not happen in your lifetime or
6 mine, but it probably will eventually, and who
7 can say what a fire truck in the year 3000 will
8 look like. It's like asking an old firefighter
9 who used a hand pumper to imagine the fire truck
10 the way it looks today. And if you've been to
11 the museum lately, you know that we're out of
12 room. We have no place on the museum floor to
13 take in any other apparatus at this time.

14 Further still, we're storing apparatus offsite,
15 and this addition will allow for that apparatus
16 to come back to the museum. The museum actually
17 hasn't had an addition since in 2001, so by the
18 time this addition is completed, it will be close
19 to 20 years since the museum had an addition, so
20 you can see that that addition is sorely needed.

21 Secondly, the museum has outgrown its space
22 for public programming. We strive to inspire the
23 next generation of firefighters with our
24 programs. Other programming space is key to that
25 endeavor. Such public space will truly help us

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2 grow the museum educational programs, which we
3 hope will inspire future firefighters and also
4 help us grow as an institution.

5 Lastly, the FASNY Museum of Firefighting is
6 just not a firefighting museum, it is the

7 premiere museum of firefighting in the world. I
8 will say that again so you can really digest it.

9 The FASNY Museum of Firefighting is the premiere
10 firefighting museum in the world. I submit to

11 you that there is not a firefighting

12 organization, a police organization, or a

13 fraternal organization that has had the vision to
14 create what together the membership and

15 leadership of FASNY has. This addition will only
16 make the museum stronger, better, and more

17 complete; and this addition, ladies and

18 gentlemen, is this generation of FASNY's

19 leadership and membership legacy, your legacy.

20 I thank you so much for having a vision to

21 recognize the importance of an addition to the

22 museum and the fortitude to make it a reality;

23 and I thank you for this opportunity to address

24 the membership of FASNY.

25 (Applause.)

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2 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you very much. It's
3 always a pleasure to go to the museum when I'm in
4 town, because it's always changed, and change is
5 great in the fire service. We wish you all the
6 luck, and I can't wait until the addition starts
7 and see some continued growth in the museum.

8 Best of luck.

9 MS. QUINN: Thank you.

10 MR. PIENKOWSKI: The video presentation you
11 have just seen will be available for viewing on
12 the museum and the FASNY website shortly after
13 the convention.

14 I hereby call the 2017 annual meeting to
15 order. It is great to see everybody in my
16 hometown back in Onondaga County for the annual
17 FASNY convention, 145th FASNY convention. You'll
18 be here for the next three years. In 2006 I ran
19 for the Board of Directors of FASNY here at
20 Onondaga County at this facility. In 2012 I ran
21 for Second Vice President of FASNY here in this
22 room, and next year in 2018 I will be walking out
23 the door as a past president here in this
24 facility in my home county. Welcome. Enjoy
25 yourself, but more importantly, behave.

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2 (Laughter.)

3 MR. PIENKOWSKI: I would like to introduce
4 the current FASNY officers and directors.5 Please stand as I call your name, and I ask
6 that you hold your applause until the end of
7 introductions.8 My First Vice President, and a great
9 friend, Steven E. Klein, Oceanside Fire
10 Department, Nassau County; Second Vice President
11 John P. Farrell, Jr., West Athens Lime Street
12 Fire Department, Green County; and past
13 President, Selden Fire Department, Suffolk
14 County, Robert N. McConville.

15 Members of the Board of Directors:

16 Michael R. Caron, Albridge Fire Department,
17 Onondaga County; Jose DaRocha, Albertson Fire
18 Department, Nassau County; Laurie M. Hance, St.
19 Lawrence County; Brian F. McQueen, Whitesborough
20 Town, Oneida County; Robert H. Ottaviano, Jr.,
21 Nassau County; Eugene J. Perry, Jr., Suffolk
22 County; Chan Rivera, who's out on assignment with
23 Brian McQueen, Ulster County; Diana Pfersick,
24 Monroe County; and Edward Tase, Jr., Niagara
25 County.

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11 (Applause.)

12 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Additional appointed
13 officers:

14 Our Chaplain, Reverend Wayne Jagow, Niagara
15 County; the two gentlemen in the red coats that
16 you see running around here, Sergeant-at-Arms
17 Kenneth J. Holmes, Sr., from Oneida County; and
18 Donald J. Farrell, our Assistant
19 Sergeant-at-Arms, from Westchester County.

20 Gentlemen, thank you for what you do.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Board of Directors
23 appointed positions: The attorney of the
24 Firemen's Association of the State of New York,
25 Edward M. Cooke, Sullivan County; association key

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2 staff; Colleen Simo, Director of Human Resources;
3 and Patricia Phesay, our Director of Finance.

4 Thank you.

5 You may be seated.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. KLEIN: Good morning.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

9 MR. KLEIN: Before I introduce the past
10 officers, I want to conduct a little survey.

11 Will anybody in the room who knows a firefighter
12 who has or is battling cancer or has battled
13 cancer and lost their battle, please rise.

14 (Some audience members rose.)

15 MR. KLEIN: This is why we're doing what
16 we're doing. Okay. This is why we're doing it,
17 and we'll continue doing what we have to do,
18 which will be getting what we need to make sure
19 that when I ask that question two years from now,
20 nobody has to stand up. Thank you.

21 Okay. It's my honor to introduce to you
22 the past FASNY officers and directors. As I call
23 your name, please stand and remain standing until
24 I read the entire list, and please hold your
25 applause until the end.

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2 I am going to name all of our past
3 officers, whether they're here or not, so if they
4 don't stand, you'll realize they're not here, I
5 guess.

6 Past Presidents: Kenneth E. Newton, Gerard
7 J. Buckenmeyer, Gunnar L. Neilson, Thomas E.
8 Eiswerth, James H. Williams, Joseph A. Finnegan,
9 Michael P. Wutz, Thomas J. Cuff, Jr., David
10 Jacobowitz, James A. Burns, and Robert N.
11 McConville.

12 Past Directors: Stuart L. Gates, Roy K.
13 Dahlen, Paul L. Van Arts Dalen, K. William Grant,
14 William A. Nichols, Gregory S. Turrell, Edward T.
15 Sendlenski, James E. Cayey, David J. Sweet, and
16 Michael F. Reid.

17 And our past Sergeant-at-Arms, Werner "Zip"
18 Kraemer, who only recently celebrated his 90th
19 birthday. Happy Birthday.

20 These are your past presidents and
21 directors and officers of the Firemen's
22 Association of the State of New York.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. KLEIN: As President Pienkowski stated
25 before, a couple of our directors and some of our

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2 past trustees and trustees are on assignment.

3 They're attending a press conference asking for

4 support for the Governor to sign that cancer

5 bill, which is so important to us. Thank you.

6 Oh, wait a minute. It's also my great

7 pleasure to introduce President David Schmidt of

8 the Board of Trustees of the Firemen's Home, and

9 I'm glad I'm not a trustee, because I would have

10 been fired for missing his name.

11 (Laughter.)

12 MR. SCHMIDT: I'm glad to be standing in

13 front of you as a representative of a premiere

14 facility of the Firemen's Home. We have a couple

15 of guests with us today. Several weeks ago we

16 planned on having seven residents here, but due

17 to health concerns and a three hour trip, we have

18 several; the Vice President of the Residents'

19 Council, Robert Funk, please stand, and Billy

20 Rosenhagen.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. SCHMIDT: With them is one of our many

23 dedicated employees at the home, Mr. Ed

24 Barnett --

25 (Applause.)

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2 MR. SCHMIDT: Also with us today is the
3 Assistant Administrator Lacy Florentino-
4 Consoleni.

5 (Applause.)

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. SCHMIDT: I won't read the entire list
17 of my past trustees, because it's quite lengthy.
18 The ones I have seen and should be here, Jose
19 DaRocha, Jim Farrell, John Montrose, J.P.
20 Farrell, past Secretary Steve Klein, Paul
21 O'Brien, Bill Murray; and the past Presidents I
22 have seen today are Tom Eiswerth, Joe Finnegan,
23 Bob Wutz, Dave Jacobowitz, and Bob McConville.
24 Gentlemen, thank you.

25 (Applause.)

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2 MR. PIENKOWSKI: It gives me a great honor
3 and pleasure to introduce a great leader of an
4 organization that we've worked very closely with,
5 I would like to introduce the President of the
6 Ladies' Auxiliary of the Firemen's Association of
7 the State of New York, President Dianne Werner,
8 and her Vice Presidents, Jean Christensen and
9 Diana Balling. Good morning.

10

(Applause.)

11

12 MS. WERNER: Good morning, Ken. It's
13 really a true honor for me to be here. Reverend
14 Jagow, it was a beautiful, inspiration service.
15 Thank you so much. President Pienkowski, I would
16 also like to thank you and your board for
17 inviting me over this morning and my two vice
18 presidents, and I do believe our two
19 organizations have worked very well, and will
 continue.

20

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Very well.

21

22 MS. WERNER: Congratulations on your
23 successful term as President, and LAFASNY extends
24 our best wishes for a successful convention. We
25 do welcome you to visit us at our convention, if
 you have time to do that. I know you have a very

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5 MS. CHRISTIANSEN: Good morning. On behalf
6 of the officers and members of LAFASNY, I would
7 like to invite you President Pienkowski and your
8 officers and any members of FASNY to attend our
9 installation on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. at
10 the Comfort Inn.

11 MS. WERNER: And LAFASNY Second Vice
12 President Diana Balling.

13 MS. BALLING: President Pienkowski, it's my
14 honor to present to you the LAFASNY 69th annual
15 convention journal.

16 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you very much.

17 MS. BALLING: You're welcome.

18 MS. WERNER: Thank you, ladies. And
19 there's just one last thing, FASNY is always very
20 supportive and gives so much to the youth of our
21 state so LAFASNY wants to give a little something
22 to help you as well, so on behalf of LAFASNY I
23 would like to present to you, along with my Vice
24 Presidents, a check for \$500.00 for the Gerard
25 Buckenmeyer Scholarship fund.

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2 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Wow. Thank you very much.

3 (Applause.)

4 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Dianne, please don't
5 leave. If there are any past presidents of
6 LAFASNY in the room, any past presidents of
7 LAFASNY, please join the two vice presidents and
8 the past president of FASNY, the CAO, and the two
9 vice presidents of FASNY to my right, please.

10 Ladies, the plaque memorializes the service
11 of all your past presidents and their years in
12 that office, and it reads: "LAFASNY Past
13 Presidents. This plaque is in recognition of the
14 outgoing support from the Ladies Auxiliary of the
15 Firemen's Association of the State of New York,
16 otherwise known as LAFASNY, to the members of the
17 FASNY Firemen's Home, and dedicated to the women
18 who have faithfully upheld the tradition of
19 supporting FASNY and the FASNY Firemen's Home in
20 their tenure as President of LAFASNY."

21 Ladies, thank you for joining us this
22 morning. We wish you a successful convention.
23 You are excused to return to the Comfort Inn. We
24 know you have a busy schedule. The FASNY
25 presidents will bring this plaque over to the

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2 ladies' luncheon and re-present it to you this
3 morning.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. PIENKOWSKI: (Continued) -- that is no
12 longer.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. PIENKOWSKI: This plaque is long
15 overdue. Dianne, when you go back and start your
16 general session, I'm sure you're going to talk
17 about it, and rightfully so, and please express
18 the appreciation from the Firemen's Association
19 of the State of New York to the past presidents
20 of LAFASNY and everything they have done for
21 FASNY and the Firemen's Home.

22 MS. WERNER: Thank you so much.

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2 LAFASNY. Thank you.

3 MS. WERNER: Thank you so much, President
4 Pienkowski.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. FARRELL: Good morning.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

8 MR. FARRELL: This morning it gives me a
9 great honor to introduce some guests that are
10 with us today. First, Tracey Burkey, Vice
11 President of Visitor and Partner Engagement of
12 Syracuse Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. BRAVO: Good morning. I am not Tracey.
15 I am Christie Bravo from Visit Syracuse, and I
16 have Chad Welch here with me to welcome you to
17 Syracuse. Tracey had to go, and I'm very sorry,
18 but I just want to say that we are very excited
19 that you are here in the city of Syracuse in
20 Onondaga County to visit us, not only this year,
21 but for the next couple of years, three years.
22 Welcome to Syracuse. We have a table outside
23 that you can visit, get maps, get information on
24 the area, ask questions on the destination, so
25 enjoy yourself, and best of luck for your

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2 convention.

3 MR. WELCH: Again, my name is Chad Welch.

4 I'm with Visit Syracuse as Christie mentioned,
5 and I just really want to thank everybody for
6 coming this year and in the past. We're really
7 looking forward to '18 and '19 as well; and Ken,
8 I really appreciate all your efforts to support
9 the locals here, and we appreciate everything you
10 volunteers do. It means a lot to, not only our
11 city, us, but for all the residents as well, so
12 thank you. Again, welcome on behalf of Visit
13 Syracuse and Onondaga County. So thank you, and
14 enjoy the conference.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. FARRELL: Next is Rachel Bliss, the
17 Sales Manager, Holiday Inn, Liverpool Convention
18 Center.

19 MS. BLISS: Am I the only one that finds it
20 ironic that President Pienkowski tells people to
21 behave?

22 (Laughter.)

23 MS. BLISS: Just checking.

24 I just want to say thank you so much for
25 coming back and joining us. It's wonderful to

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2 see familiar faces that we've come to know and
3 love, people that we now call friends. Our staff
4 is thrilled to have you all here and here for a
5 couple of more years. We will be on the golf
6 course with you tomorrow, on Friday, to help
7 support the convention as well. So again, thank
8 you so much for being here. We look forward to
9 the next couple of years.

10

To the FASNY staff, to the work and the
11 effort that they put into this convention to make
12 sure that everybody has a wonderful time. It is
13 not easy. It is a lot of work, and they are very
14 passionate about making this a success for all of
15 you, and it's been a real pleasure, and I'm glad
16 we get to do it again for a few years.

17

So thank you everybody. Welcome back.

18

(Applause.)

19

MR. FARRELL: Next is John Sroka, President
20 of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs.

21

MR. SROKA: First off, I would like to
22 thank FASNY for the invitation to attend and also
23 on behalf of the New York State Association of
24 Fire Chiefs to wish you a successful and
25 informative convention.

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2 Next, I would hope that the cooperative
3 effort that's been taking place between FASNY,
4 State Chiefs, Districts, and Fire Police, and the
5 other associations will not only continue, but
6 will strengthen, and I really believe that the
7 past legislative session is proof that working
8 together as a unified course our voices could be
9 heard in Albany, and I really hope that our voice
10 is heard by our governor who makes the right
11 decision and signs the cancer bill. Thank you.

12 (APPLAUSE.)

13 MR. FARRELL: Next is Thomas Rinaldi,
14 President of the Association of Fire Districts of
15 the State of New York.

16 MR. RINALDI: Good morning, everybody.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

18 MR. RINALDI: I want to thank Ken and the
19 officers of the FASNY for inviting us here today.
20 I would also like to introduce a couple of people
21 in the audience. My officers, First Vice
22 President Fred Senti, and our Secretary/Treasurer
23 Joe DeStefano; and past President, who you all
24 know from here in Onondaga County, Tom Herlihy.

25 (APPLAUSE.)

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2 MR. RINALDI: It's great to be here, and
3 it's great to see a lot of familiar faces in the
4 audience, and it was a very moving memorial
5 service this morning, and I appreciate what the
6 Reverend does for us, and is a calming thing for
7 all of us in our tumultuous life.

8 Again, I want to echo what John Sroka said,
9 it's been great working together for a number of
10 years. We've kind of become family as we show up
11 at everything together. Quinn and I have
12 become -- When we walk into a room, it's like uh
13 oh, they're here, so it's great to be that way.
14 It's great to work together with all the
15 organizations and become a force all over the
16 state but in Albany. We have a lot of challenges
17 that we have to meet. I want everybody in the
18 room to your raise your hand, anybody that's
19 below the age of 30.

20 (Laughter.)

21 MR. RINALDI: That's what I thought. Okay.
22 We have a lot of challenges that we have to work
23 on, and it's great to be able to work on them
24 together. As all the fire service organizations,
25 including OFPC, we have been trying to move

1

2 forward and meet the challenges; and one of the
3 things that we can't do is give you any magic
4 solutions, but we can help you plan, and we can
5 help answer some questions and help you to meet
6 the future, and that's what it's all about.

7 So thank you. Have a great conference, and
8 thanks for having me here today.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. FARRELL: Next is Bill Kennedy, First
11 Vice President of the County Fire Coordinators
12 Association of the State of New York.

13 MR. KENNEDY: Thank you for the invite. On
14 behalf of the Firefighters' Association it's my
15 pleasure to be here. Our president, Ed Tremblay,
16 sends his regards and regrets that he couldn't
17 attend. I would just like to continue to echo
18 how great it's been to have the cooperation among
19 all the fire agencies so that we can go forward
20 and speak with one voice representing all the
21 fire service of New York, and I would like to
22 thank FASNY for the representation of the
23 volunteers. Coming from an all volunteer, one
24 hundred present volunteer county, we appreciate
25 what you do for the volunteers.

1

2 I would like to also say the memorial was a
3 great tribute this morning. I sit there and I
4 think, and I hope that the fire service that we
5 are today is a direct reflection of those who
6 have gone before us and their vision, and the
7 work that we continue to do today as many
8 organizations will be a direct reflection of the
9 fire service of the future as we continue to
10 prosper this and work for all the fire service
11 and the members. Thank you.

12 (APPLAUSE.)

13 MR. FARRELL: Next is Frank Guarino,
14 President of the Volunteer Fire Police
15 Association of the State of New York.

16 MR. GUARINO: I would like to thank FASNY
17 for inviting us to this convention. I look
18 forward to working with President Pienkowski and
19 his board and also the Districts and the New York
20 State Chiefs. Have a great convention, and I
21 look forward to working with you again.

22 (APPLAUSE.)

23 MR. FARRELL: Next we have Dan Wears,
24 Commissioner of Onondaga County Emergency
25 Management.

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2 (Applause.)

3 MR. WEARS: Good morning. It's my pleasure
4 to be here this morning on behalf of the county
5 executives, Joanne Mahoney; Fire Director Joe
6 Rinefierd, and all 55 fire departments that we
7 have here in this county, a combination of career
8 and volunteer. Welcome to Onondaga County, and
9 thank you for coming here. We look forward to
10 having you for two more years. It looks like you
11 have a great attendance this morning, and I hope
12 that you can take something from this and apply
13 it back to your local department, and it may not
14 all apply, but there's certainly things you can
15 take back to where you are. So thank you and
16 have a great convention.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. FARRELL: David Lewis, Director of the
19 National Volunteer Council.

20 MR. LEWIS: Good morning. Thank you. It's
21 certainly an honor and a privilege to be with you
22 this morning representing the National Volunteer
23 Fire Council. Our chairman, Kevin Quinn, could
24 not be here and asked me to represent him. It's
25 certainly a privilege for me to be here on behalf

1 of Kevin Quinn; Heather Schafer, our Executive
2 Director; and the entire staff and all the
3 directors of the National Volunteer Fire Council.
4 Chairman Quinn asked me to express his thanks to
5 each and every one of you for what you do on a
6 day-to-day basis representing your communities
7 and keeping your community safe. More than 70
8 percent of the nation's firefighters are
9 volunteers, so we still represent the largest
10 portion of fire service needs in our communities.
11 That's something said for some of us. We save
12 our communities in excess of 140 billion, that's
13 "B" with a capital "B", billion dollars each year
14 because of the services that we provided, without
15 the expectation of compensations, without
16 concerns for our own lives and safety, because we
17 know that the greatest rewards that we can give
18 is the safety of our communities, and we work on
19 that behalf. National Volunteer Fire Council
20 works on your behalf. National Volunteer Fire
21 Council is represented by directors, two
22 directors from each of the 49 states. The only
23 state that is not represented is Hawaii. It's
24 not because there aren't volunteers in Hawaii,
25

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2 but the states are each represented by the state
3 organization that represents. If you understand
4 the geography of Hawaii, being separated by seven
5 islands, there is no one state organization.

6 I've offered to go organize that, but I was told
7 I had to stand in line.

8 (Laughter.)

9 MR. LEWIS: We work hard at the National
10 Volunteer Fire Council. I also bring you
11 greetings on behalf of my own state, Maryland,
12 the Maryland State Firemen's Association, and our
13 President, Mark Bilger. I'm honored to be here.
14 This is now the fourth year I've been here, and
15 I'm a FASNY card carrying member, even though I'm
16 not part of a Maryland department. The NVFC
17 works hard on your behalf, each and every day,
18 whether it be legislative matters at a federal
19 level. David Finger in our office does a great
20 job in partnership with the International
21 Association of Fire Chiefs, the International
22 Association of Firefighters -- Fire Service
23 Institute. That's a partnership that has to
24 exist in DC so that there's one united fire
25 service. When it's volunteer issues, sometimes

1

2 we stand along, sometimes they're there with us
3 to support it. We certainly work hard on your
4 behalf with the standards organization, NFPA, the
5 National Fire Protection Agency. Some people
6 call it not for practical application, but we
7 deal with that.

8 (Laughter.)

9 MR. LEWIS: We work hard to make sure that
10 the standards, as the standards are developed,
11 have the voice of the volunteer, because quite
12 often you get the standards committees, there's a
13 strong hold of either career departments or a
14 strong hold of commercial and industrial fronts,
15 it kind of pushes an aggression that is unfair to
16 you guys. So we work hard on those things. We
17 also work hard on homeland security issues,
18 specifically on a day-to-day with the grant
19 programs, the assistant firefighter grant
20 programs, the safety program, and the fire
21 protection safety program. And we're right now
22 leading the charge with those partners I
23 mentioned earlier in order to make sure that we
24 get the reauthorization of IAFG, which will
25 sunset in 2018 without congressional outcome.

1

2 The senate has approved it. It's over in the
3 house. Unfortunately both the senate and the
4 house take a vacation in August so they can come
5 home, but we believe that shortly thereafter we
6 will have a reauthorization of the IAFG, I think
7 it's very important, and I think many of you
8 recognized the importance. So who is the NVFC?
9 I said it's representing by 49 states, two
10 directors from each state. I can tell you that
11 you are very well represented by Brian McQueen
12 and Dave Jacobowitz. Brian is leading the
13 charge, not only in your state, but at a national
14 rate the fight against cancer. It's very
15 important, and I think that New York has set the
16 mark there to show the rest of the nation that we
17 have to take that seriously, and Brian has worked
18 very hard with NVFC, as he has in your own state,
19 to not only get the cancer legislation here, but
20 the national cancer registry through the federal
21 legislation. There's a number of actions there.
22 David Jacobowitz has worked with us with a number
23 of initiatives, most importantly the recruit and
24 retention initiative; and again, New York has set
25 the mark with Recruit New York, a very successful

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2 campaign on your front, and I congratulate you on
3 that. I've taken that up back home in Maryland,
4 and we've now for the last three years had
5 Recruit Maryland or national recruit statewide
6 recruitment day. We're having a little bit of a
7 slow start. Again, talking to Dave and some of
8 your people, you had a slow start the first
9 couple of years too. So we're hoping to gain
10 some there. Some of the big things that we're
11 doing is in the health and safety arena
12 recognizing that we have to be healthy, we have
13 to be safe and what we do on a day-to-day basis
14 as we serve our communities and we serve the
15 citizens. So a lot of that comes under the logo
16 of serve strong campaign, recognizing in order to
17 serve we have to be strong; and there's a lot of
18 things that go into that, into that strength.
19 Obviously we have to be healthy, both physically
20 and mentally; and so again, we encourage people
21 to have those physicals, not only have those
22 physicals, but do the cancer screening now, and
23 be mentally healthy. More firefighters and EMS
24 personnel die from suicide each year than they do
25 in line of duty deaths. That's a statistic that

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2 we have to reverse. We, as the leadership, need
3 to recognize the red flags when our members are
4 having trouble. One of the things that is in
5 your packet is version three of the newsletter
6 that the NVFC has put out. It kind of helps
7 provide you some tools, as well as tools that we
8 have -- I would encourage you to take that.

9 Don't take that bag back and put it in the corner
10 somewhere in your office, but take that bag out
11 and share that, share this with your people, and
12 have them read through it. More importantly,
13 take out the insert which gives them the
14 1-800-731-FIRE number. If they need help, have
15 them call or you call. Our good friend over here
16 Scott -- and Mike Healy, have been instrumental
17 travelling across the country, and the NVFC has
18 brought them to another number of forums across
19 the country -- Scott and his story, and I've
20 heard it about five times, and it gives me a
21 chill each time. He was one click of a gun away
22 from committing suicide. He reached out to the
23 help line. Mike Healy reached out to help him,
24 and Scott now is a survivor, and he's telling his
25 story. You know about cancer. You're leading

1

2 the fight for cancer. We also offer multiple
3 training opportunities for your members. So the
4 "Share the Load" program is important for mental
5 health. Some of the stuff that we provide for
6 physical health, some of the training that we
7 have, recruit and retention is always a challenge
8 for us. We have a "Make Me a Firefighter"
9 campaign that's gone through national attention
10 in order to do that, so it's certainly there.

1

2 scholarship benefits and discounts and things
3 like that; but more importantly, help us lead the
4 challenge so that when we work for your behalf
5 each and every day -- And I know Brian McQueen is
6 pushing that charge. Kevin Quinn at our April
7 meeting put a charge out to each of the state
8 directors that by the time we come back to our
9 fall meeting, he wants 500 members representing
10 each state. Brian told me that he's at 327 for
11 New York. So you need to help him so that when
12 he goes out to Nebraska come this fall he's met,
13 New York has met the 500 mark, and I think that's
14 easily achievable.

15

16 So again, on behalf of chairman Kevin
17 Quinn, the entire staff of the National Volunteer
18 Fire Council, I congratulate you on your 145th
19 convention and conference and wish you luck, and
20 thank you for your service each and every day to
the citizens of your communities.

21

Thank you.

22

(Applause.)

23

MR. FARRELL: Also with us is Gene Conway,
Sheriff of Onondaga County.

25

(Applause.)

1

2 MR. CONWAY: Good morning and welcome. I

3 want to thank you for the invitation to be here

4 this morning. I want to thank you for that,

5 because it gives me an opportunity to come before

6 you and to what I can describe best in two words

7 as thank you. Thank you for your service. Thank

8 you for your assistance to law enforcement, and

9 thank you for being such outstanding members of

10 your community. Each and every day and night we

11 know that you stand ready to answer the call just

12 as we do in law enforcement. And that statement

13 alone should serve as a reminder to everyone in

14 our community that you should always be

15 acknowledged for that, and certainly never

16 forgotten. Please know that as Sheriff I stand

17 in support of everything that you need to not

18 only perform your duties presently, but certainly

19 in the future after your service. And on behalf

20 of all the members of the Sheriff's office, I'm

21 not going to tell you to behave --

22

(Laughter.)

23

24

25

MR. CONWAY: (Continuing) -- we're going to extend you our best wishes and hope you have an enjoyable time here, and certainly above

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2 everything else, stay safe.

3 Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

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2 Insurance Services, VFIS; Tim Boel, Education
3 Specialist from VFIS; David Petro, Regional
4 Director of Provident Insurance; Steve Heefner,
5 past President of Cumberland Valley Firemen's
6 Association; and Ulrich Mauser, who is Executive
7 Vice President of Provident Insurance.

8

Thank you very much.

9

(Applause.)

10

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you Vice President

11

Farrell.

12

It is my pleasure to introduce Francis

13

"Skip" Nerney, Jr., our State Fire Administrator, New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the purpose of a presentation.

17

Skip, welcome. It's always a pleasure to see you; but more importantly, it's an honor to work with you and your office. Welcome to the annual FASNY convention.

21

(Applause.)

22

MR. NERNEY: Thank you for inviting me, and

23

I'm glad to see so many longtime friends and new friends. I was starting to use the word old. I don't want to use those things. I'm here to

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2 congratulate you on your 145th on behalf of the
3 Office of Fire Prevention and Control and also to
4 wish you a successful and productive conference.

5 I'm really excited today to bring to you, and
6 introduce to you, our new commissioner of the
7 Division of Homeland Security Emergency Services.

8 I don't know -- In the short time I've known the
9 commissioner, I don't know anybody who is more
10 dedicated to the safety of New Yorkers and
11 emergency services. I've heard it loud and clear
12 from him in the few months that I've known him,
13 and I appreciate that.

14 So Commissioner Roger L. Parrino, Sr.,
15 joined the division in May of 2017. Prior to
16 joining the Governor's cabinet he served as
17 Secretary Jeh Johnson's Senior Counsel at the
18 Department of Homeland Security in Washington,
19 DC.

20 As a young man, Commissioner Parrino
21 enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves. He then
22 served over 21 years in the New York Police
23 Department, retiring as a hostage negotiator and
24 commanding officer of Manhattan North Homicide
25 Squad. He also worked overseas as a law

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2 enforcement/counter insurgency advisor to Marine
3 Corps Infantry and Special Operations units. He
4 completed four combat tours in Iraq and
5 Afghanistan, as well as the maiden deployment of
6 the USS Green Bay to the Indian Ocean.

7 The commissioner is a recipient of the New
8 York Police Department Medal of Valor for actions
9 taken on September 11, 2001 and the DHS
10 Distinguished Public Service Medal.

11 He is a 1979 graduate of Valley Forge
12 Military Academy, a 1989 graduate of the Regents
13 College, and a lifetime member of the Council on
14 Foreign Relations.

15 I would like to now present to you
16 Commissioner Parrino.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. PARRINO: So unfortunately I don't have
19 the ability to come up here and waive the -- but
20 the other speakers had, and I was a little
21 jealous that maybe I could have had that
22 opportunity, but Skip said no I have to go ahead
23 with the speech.

24 So as a cop, I'm keeping my eye on the
25 Sergeant-at-Arms. The last speaker who came up

1

2 close to him, he ended his speech right away and
3 sat down, so I figure I have to watch him --

4 (Laughter) -- going to take care of me.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MR. PARRINO: As a cop I look at things
7 differently. I see these little gangs here.
8 Guys in uniform I get, but the blue blazers with
9 the blue shirts, yellow and blue over here
10 (Indicating) --

11 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Gold, gold, gold.

12 MR. PARRINO: (Continuing) -- the red
13 blazers over here (Indicating) -- Gold, gold,
14 gold. Oh, man, where's that Sergeant-at-Arms?
15 Get him up here.

16 The red blazers, the maroon blazers, the
17 women that left are a little more relaxed, but
18 the ones that scare me the most are the green
19 blazers, because they're spread out like they're
20 getting ready to go in an aggressive stance.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MR. PARRINO: Anyway, thank you for that
23 introduction, Skip. President, thank you for
24 having me. I appreciate it very much.

25 MR. PIENKOWSKI: You're welcome.

1

2 MR. PARRINO: It's great to see an
3 organization that has so much love and respect
4 for the people that went before them. To see the
5 presentation, the museum and the firemen's home,
6 the firefighter's home, and to participate in the
7 memorial. I always have great respect for
8 organizations like that. Those are the
9 organizations that I came time from. And to
10 listen to the bagpipes, and hearing the padre
11 comment on Winston Churchill, I'm ready to go to
12 war and fight them. Then I remember I was told I
13 have to behave, and then I really remembered that
14 I wear loafers, because I can't even bend down
15 and tie my shoes anymore, so no sense in getting
16 ready to fight.

17

 (Laughter.)

18

19 MR. PARRINO: You did fire me up, and I
20 appreciated being at the memorial service.

21

22 I recently succeeded John Melville at the
23 division. John did a great job of leading the
24 agency, and I look forward to building upon his
25 contributions. I'm delighted to speak with you
 this morning because like you, I have a deep
 commitment to public service, and I want to thank

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2 you for your public service. I am passionate
3 about protecting the people of the country, and
4 in particular the citizens of New York; and
5 safety for our first responders through proper
6 training is absolutely a priority of mine. In
7 all my years of public service, in the short time
8 that I've been commissioner, I watched the state
9 firefighters step forward in times of need.
10 During my recent travels around the state I was
11 able to see dedication and professionalism in
12 firefighting forces of work in Fonda. Through
13 their efforts, they were able to bring a large
14 fire under control. I happened to be one of the
15 first people to respond because I saw the smoke
16 from the thruway. I was really impressed to see
17 them working. And what I did notice was they are
18 missing, and obviously I'm talking to the choir,
19 but I see that they're missing those younger
20 members that you so badly need. And then I just
21 clicked in paranoia, because I see that you're
22 actually writing what I'm saying, so now I have
23 to really be very careful.

24

(Laughter.)

25

MR. PARRINO: As many of you know, our

16 I'm excited to lead the division of
17 homeland security and emergency services at this
18 time. You have my promise that this agency will
19 continue to do everything as it empowers to
20 support the firefighting community, as well as
21 the emergency medical services across this great
22 state. OFPC has a longstanding relationship with
23 FASNY and has proven beneficial to both
24 organizations, including regular meetings to
25 discuss topics such as training, staffing, and

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2 firefighter safety. OFPC values your input
3 regulating our firefighter training program,
4 including development of the best practices
5 document to help New York State fire departments
6 meet the PESCH requirements. I want this strong
7 and working relationship to continue. A key
8 element of our ongoing commitment to the
9 firefighters and EMS starts with the continued
10 support of the fire academy at Montaur Falls.

11 Now in its 47th year of operation, the academy
12 offers a wide variety of fire service courses to
13 help the state's firefighters and EMTs stay sharp
14 and ready for anything they may encounter on the
15 job. We understand that the firefighter training
16 requirements are tough and that will affect the
17 volunteer fire service. We will continue to work
18 with the fire services association to create
19 scheduling options to best meet the needs of the
20 students. While the OFPC team continues to work
21 in expanding and improving the county training
22 environment, we anticipate that the flaming
23 liquid rail problem will be functional this fall,
24 and we are able to secure the funding through
25 FEMA assistance and firefighter grant programs

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2 for the state fire academy. OFPC will continue
3 to successfully secure AFG funds, which you heard
4 a little bit about before, for a mobile, vertical
5 rope rescue training prop in a mobile re-burnable
6 fire investigation training prop. Both of these
7 projects are in the design phase. We also
8 operate another training facility for first
9 responders, the state preparedness training
10 center in Oriskany. For those fire departments
11 we'll also provide EMS, and SPTC routinely offers
12 training courses for EMT to integrate with law
13 enforcement as they learn how to respond to
14 deadly active shooter incidents in a coordinated
15 way. For example, the SPTC's advanced active
16 shooter scenario course integrates EMT and law
17 enforcement so they can train on how to respond
18 during an active shooter incident and not wait
19 for the shooter to be terminated. New York State
20 has been early in proactive problems in
21 integrative law enforcement and ES training. The
22 advanced active shooter scenario course teaches
23 students to safely, effectively, and routinely
24 respond to complex attacks utilizing the rescue
25 task force concept.

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2 We are also currently building the first in
3 the nation's swift water and flood rescue
4 training center for firefighters, technical
5 rescue personnel, as well as first responders
6 from law enforcement and the New York National
7 Guard. When completed next spring, the swift
8 water and flood rescue center will enable first
9 responders to learn the technical skills
10 necessary to perform water rescues in controlled
11 conditions. In the past, we had to wait for a
12 flooding stream at a certain time of the year,
13 now we should be able to do this 12 months out of
14 the year. Not that I would have any interest in
15 doing it, but we will provide it.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MR. PARRINO: This unique training facility
18 will occupy approximately seven acres of SPTC
19 property, including a three acre pond and a
20 concrete swift water channel and an urban flood
21 simulator to allow rescue personnel to train in
22 flooded streets and buildings. The SPTC and the
23 academy of fire service are your training
24 centers. Each are designed for you and your
25 colleagues. Please take advantage of the

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2 training opportunities offered at each facility.

3

4 I would also like to mention the work that
5 our grants' department does to support volunteer
6 firefighter improvement efforts in our state. As
7 you know, the volunteer firefighter and volunteer
8 emergency service workers recruit and retention
9 fund, the source of funding for the recruitment
10 and retention grant program. This was
11 established in New York State tax law 2009.

12

13 These grant funds, supported through GIFS, by
14 personal income tax return filers go toward the
15 organizational leadership development. These
16 funds help the fire service organize develop and
17 implant recruiting and retention programs and
18 materials. The first competitor recruitment and
19 retention grant was released in 2012 and totalled
20 approximately \$390,000.00. The second iteration
of this grant occurred in fiscal year '15/'16 and
totalled approximately \$360,000.00.

21

22 In closing, I look forward to our continued
23 partnership to raise awareness about the critical
24 importance volunteers play in the state's fire
25 service community. I also welcome your thoughts
and ideas on how we can improve on them. So the

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2 next line really has, which was proofread by
3 Skip, says reach out to me. Reach out to Skip.

4 (Laughter.)

5 MR. PARRINO: Thank you again for inviting
6 me to speak to you. God bless firefighters. God
7 speed.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. PIENKOWSKI: I would like to introduce
10 Dotty Harris, Vice President of Government
11 Affairs for the International Codes Council.
12 Dotty, welcome.

13 MS. HARRIS: Thank you so much.

14 I just want to take a couple of minutes.
15 Really so happy to be here. It's an honor to be
16 here, and I bring well wishes on behalf of the
17 International Code Council. Some of you may
18 remember that last year our President was here
19 and our CEP was here. Today you get me, but I'm
20 really happy to be here, and I think the key
21 message you just heard was really we get so much
22 more done when we're in partnership, and I was so
23 honored as my former capacity, when I worked for
24 the Department of State and got to work with your
25 very own past President Jim Burns, Marilyn

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2 Schrader is in the audience, and one of the
3 really important projects I was so lucky to be a
4 part of was getting a model code here in New York
5 state; and honestly, we would not have gotten
6 that done without FASNY's assistance and support
7 and advocacy, as well as the other branches of
8 fire services; and I am so pleased that now in my
9 current capacity at the International Code
10 Council to have that even more active support,
11 because now you've all recognized the importance
12 to keep those codes current. And why is that?
13 So we can take on those most important and most
14 up-to-date standards and other critical
15 firefighting technologies and methods of
16 construction and all of those benefits that we in
17 New York need to continue having. So I am so
18 thankful that I have such a strong partner with
19 FASNY, and please count on my support in any way
20 I can. And part of that, I have to say, I was so
21 lucky again this year to tag along with the fire
22 service lobby day that we had. We had the
23 building officials join on. We had all the
24 aspects of that, all those different groups of
25 the fire service; FASNY, of course, as a leader

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2 of that press conference on that cancer bill, and
3 to see that bill pass this year in both houses,
4 just in one year. I remember last year we still
5 were fighting so much opposition, and to see that
6 pass it just shows you how strong you are and how
7 strong your voice is. So I am so happy to be
8 just a tiny part of that involvement, and please
9 count on my support any way I can, and I thank
10 you so much for inviting me to be here and
11 continue working with you and your officers.

12 Thank you so much.

13 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Dotty, thank you for
14 everything you do for us.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. PIENKOWSKI: It gives me great pleasure
17 to introduce Ron Barz, National Director of the
18 Firefighters' Cancer Support Network for the
19 purpose of a presentation.

20 MR. BARZ: Thank you very much President
21 Pienkowski, Vice Presidents Klein and Farrell.
22 Very quickly I am just going to have to thank a
23 very humble man, and I don't know where he's
24 sitting, he's somewhere in here, is your past
25 President, Robert McConville. Without Bobby's

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2 help through the years and the starting off of
3 FASNY to work on the presumption bill, without
4 his help, without the videos that were given to
5 your senators in the state offices to work on
6 this bill. The organizations that got involved
7 with it also is the Chiefs, Districts, Fire
8 Marshals, and my good friend, Frank's fire
9 police. This bill has gone through fruition and
10 is sitting on the governor's desk. I know I've
11 seen outside. There are petitions to be signed.
12 Please sign it. We have to get this bill
13 through. It's a beginning. It's a beginning for
14 us in the fire service. Cancer has come to be a
15 very part of the fire service. As we've seen
16 here before, I'd say 75 percent of the people
17 stood up in this audience know somebody that has
18 had cancer. I am a 10 year survivor of cancer.
19 I just celebrated that two months ago. The worst
20 word you ever want to hear in your life is you
21 have cancer. I would like to just say there are
22 different organizations. Brian McQueen, I know
23 you're somewhere in the audience also --

24 MR. PIENKOWSKI: He's on assignment. He's
25 at the press conference in Chittenango asking the

1

2 governor to sign it.

3

4 MR. BARZ: Sign the bill. There are
5 organizations that will help you. What we ask
6 you to do is the senior members to go back to
7 your fire departments to your junior members,
8 having them -- take their physicals, stop them
9 from chewing and smoking. The biggest thing in
10 my firehouse right now is the young fellows
11 saying, oh, I'm not going to smoke, I'm going to
12 chew. I keep on telling them, I'd rather see you
13 smoke than chew because within five to six years
14 and you have a big black mark inside your mouth,
15 and you're not going to know what it is. It's
16 our job to teach, and we have to teach our
17 younger members.

18

19 Very quickly, and I want to speak about the
20 young gentleman here from the National Volunteer
21 Fire Service. He talks about PTSD. There's
22 people in this audience four years ago that saw
23 me at the New York State Chiefs' Conference. A
24 little woman five foot four set me off. I went
25 through a year of living hell with PTSD, where I
wanted to take one of my guns, put it into my
mouth, and blow my brains out. That's how close

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2 it came until I got help. I would strongly go
3 along with this, to have this in, because this is
4 something that is coming into the fire service,
5 and it's coming in and hitting firemen hard.

6 Thank you very much, and I hope to see
7 everybody at the Michael D. Whelan walk this
8 afternoon, and if you have any other questions,
9 please stop by my booth, and I'll be glad to
10 answer anything.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Ron, I hope you're not
13 running away here.

14 Ron, FASNY has been a longtime supporter
15 and partner of the Firefighter Cancer Support
16 Network. It is a great pleasure that the
17 officers and members of the Firemen's Association
18 of the State of New York once again we're able to
19 donate this check in the amount of \$2,500.00 to
20 the Firefighter's Cancer Support Network for
21 everything you do.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. BARZ: On behalf of the association --
25 Thank you for the promotion, but I am the

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2 regional director.

3 (Laughter.)

4 MR. BARZ: On behalf of Tony Cruz, who is
5 the director, he's away at a wedding, I thank you
6 all. I thank you again, and let's keep up the
7 fight. Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Ron.

10 I would like to pause here for a minute to
11 remember our brother and sister firefighters who
12 have lost their battle with cancer. You know who
13 they are. We all know a firefighter who has had
14 cancer or is currently battling cancer; and
15 unfortunately, one of us in this room and many of
16 our firefighters we know will be battling this
17 dreadful disease, unfortunately, in the future.

18 This is why it is so important that all of our
19 members send letters to the Governor urging
20 Governor Cuomo to sign our presumptive cancer
21 legislation into law without delay. The officers
22 of our different state organizations cannot do it
23 alone. You the members here this morning, your
24 brothers and sisters back home, need to be very
25 vocal and send a strong a message to our

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2 governor. Also that legislation is in the
3 information center outside the convention center
4 here in the hallway for your signature. It's
5 very simple. It will only take a minute of your
6 time. Ask for an extra copy unsigned, take it
7 back home with you, make copies, and have your
8 brothers and sisters of your fire department sign
9 it, and return it to the FASNY office. Also you
10 can go to the FASNY website and click on the
11 "Take Action Now" tab on the cancer pop up box.
12 It takes a minute. It is simple, and it is to
13 your benefit. You and I did not volunteer to get
14 cancer. Show the Governor how important the
15 cancer bill is to you. The time is now. This is
16 our fight for our brothers and sisters. It would
17 be tragic for another year to go by with New York
18 volunteer firefighters having no cancer coverage
19 and remaining alone and forgotten without help
20 from their state.

21 At this time I would like to introduce Dr.
22 Jacqueline Moline, Chairperson of the FASNY
23 Health and Wellness Committee for a report and an
24 update on the study that FASNY officers voted to
25 conduct.

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2 Dr. Moline, welcome.

3 (Applause.)

4 DR. MOLINE: Good morning, everyone. I'm
5 honored to be here, and I would just like to
6 thank everyone for the support that we've gotten.
7 I'm chair of the health and wellness committee
8 for FASNY, and it's been a wonderful learning
9 experience for me, learning about this fantastic
10 organization, and I want to particularly thank
11 past President McConville for getting me involved
12 with this, and I'd also like to give a shout out
13 to Director Diana Pfersick, who is an amazing
14 member of our committee. She's the liaison for
15 our committee, but she's really a true member of
16 our health and wellness committee, and I do thank
17 her.

18 So First Vice President Klein took away my
19 first slide, so he didn't see my slide, but he
20 certainly knew what the first slide was truly
21 going to be. So we know that cancer has affected
22 many people here. Part of the reason that it's
23 so important to get the cancer presumption bill
24 passed is because of the voluminous number of
25 carcinogens that everyone is exposed to. There

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2 are a number of chemicals out there whether it's
3 Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, those
4 byproducts of combustion, other asbestos that was
5 in many of the building materials, formaldehyde,
6 and just the list goes on. Some of those are
7 listed up there (Indicating).

8 What do we know about the rates of cancer?

9 Well, we know this from paid firefighters. We
10 know this from career firefighters. The NIOSH
11 study of career firefighters showed that many of
12 them are preventable. Many of them are treatable
13 if they're found at early stages, and many of
14 them can be detected through standard tests. In
15 most cases the tests aren't always done as part
16 of an evaluation, but they could be added if we
17 made sure that the physicians knew. We know that
18 there are increased risks to a number of cancers
19 that have been identified through these settings,
20 and the list is up there on the screen, and these
21 range from testicular cancer to esophageal cancer
22 to, as you brought up, as Ronnie brought up, with
23 those who chew that people with oral cancers
24 related to what people are breathing in or are
25 inhaling, but we certainly don't want to add to

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2 that by folks chewing tobacco. What these
3 studies often show is if you look at everyone in
4 total the rates might not be increased, but when
5 you look at subgroups things like prostate cancer
6 seem to be increased in individuals under 60.

7 Prostate cancer is a very common cancer in men.

8 Many people will develop prostate cancer, and
9 they will die with prostate cancer not from
10 prostate cancer, but for those individuals who
11 develop it before 60, it tends to be more
12 aggressive, and we know now from some of these
13 studies that prostate cancer is more common in
14 younger firefighters, and these are the ones we
15 need to detect, and these are the ones that we
16 need to get in screening programs and treat them
17 early.

18 So why are we doing this research study?

19 And let me give you a little background on what
20 this research study is. All the information to
21 date is based on studies that have been done on
22 career firefighters. They have not studied
23 volunteer firefighters. I went to the person who
24 wrote the study that just came out, the NIOSH,
25 the National Institute for Occupational Safety

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2 and Health study, and I said to him, well, why
3 don't you do a study on volunteer firefighters,
4 and this actually was before I got tapped to be
5 the chair of health and wellness, and he said,
6 I'd love to, but it's impossible to do. Well,
7 it's not impossible to do, it just takes a lot of
8 work, and I know that with the support of FASNY
9 we will get this done. But having to really find
10 out what these rates are when we went to try to
11 discuss why it was important to get this cancer
12 presumption bill, one of the first questions we
13 got asked was, well, what do the studies show?
14 And it was a moment where I just had to be very
15 creative in my answers and say that the toxins
16 don't matter whether you're paid or not, which is
17 the truth, but there wasn't a particular study I
18 could point to, and I had to rely on the career
19 studies, which I think is valid, but let's find
20 out in the volunteer fire service so then when
21 we're posed with that question we can
22 definitively answer it. So that's why we're
23 doing this study, and that's why FASNY has
24 supported this study. So what we're doing is
25 we're using the same number. We're going to be

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2 the first study in cancer of volunteer
3 firefighters, and we will be able to develop the
4 prevention and support for legislation. We're
5 using the same methods that NIOSH used. There's
6 been some pushback. People are always going to
7 try to be nay sayers and say, well, you didn't do
8 it the right way, so we're being very careful on
9 how we're designing this study to make sure we're
10 using the same methods the NIOSH study used, and
11 we're matching volunteer firefighters to existing
12 registries. We're collecting the number of
13 cancers. We're collecting the number of deaths
14 from cancers, and it was incredibly moving to be
15 at the memorial service this morning, and I kept
16 thinking I wonder how many of these brave men and
17 women passed away from cancer in the past year.
18 We're also comparing these rates between New York
19 state and the U.S. population. This is a
20 standard way of doing what we call an incident
21 study or a mortality study. We have gotten the
22 necessary approval from our organization, which
23 says that we're allowed to, we don't have
24 unreasonable risk for harm for human subjects.
25 And what do we need to do this study? And all of

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2 you have been give a packet of some of the
3 materials on what we need, and we hope you will
4 bring that back to your fire companies and talk
5 to them about what we need. We need about 50,000
6 to 100,000 individuals. We need to get lists of
7 personnel, and then we need these lists, without
8 any personal health information, to be sent back
9 to us, so that we can compile the lists and send
10 them for matching to the cancer registries. We
11 need the type of fire department, the number of
12 incident runs from the past few years, and
13 training events that might have happened. We
14 will work with our staff. We will work with each
15 fire department to collect and submit this
16 information, and we can do it securely online, or
17 you can do it in whatever method works, and we'll
18 work with you to make that happen.

19 I just want to cover what won't happen in
20 research study. We won't have access to personal
21 information like personal health data. We won't
22 be using this information for solicitation or any
23 other purpose or for any purpose. We won't be
24 directly contacting individual firefighters or
25 their families. We're happy to talk to

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2 individual firefighters if they want to reach out
3 to us, but we will not be contacting individual
4 firefighters. We want it on the level of the
5 fire companies. And most importantly, social
6 security numbers and personal health information
7 will not be requested. We talked about this
8 morning. We know that no one fights cancer
9 alone, whether it's for the future generations or
10 whether it's for those who are working now. We
11 need to get the answers to these questions, and
12 after listening to Reverend Lundy this morning,
13 I'm going to ask him to come on my recruitment
14 visits, because I think he can be even more
15 persuasive than anyone on my team ever could be,
16 but I hope that all of you will take this
17 information back and ask your companies to
18 provide this information to us. We can't do this
19 without your support. Folks will be reaching out
20 to you and asking you to send us lists. We're
21 happy to answer any questions you might have,
22 make it as easy as possible for everyone, but
23 without your support, this study cannot work.
24 This is what has held every single investigator
25 back from being able to do a study. No one has

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2 been able to do it in this country, but FASNY is
3 first in the nation and will be first to do this
4 study, but in order to do it, we need all of your
5 help and support.

6 I thank you for your time, and I'll be at
7 the wellness booth. So if any of you have any
8 questions, I'll be here for the next couple of
9 days, and please reach out. I'll be walking with
10 whoever is doing the walk this afternoon
11 supporting the wellness, and there's a website if
12 anyone wants to reach out to us and email us with
13 any questions. That will go to our team as well
14 as an email address. Much of this information is
15 in your packet. We even made little stickers, so
16 once your department has been able to send the
17 information, just like we all have those "I
18 voted" stickers on, if you send in that info, you
19 get to wear one of those stickers.

20 So I thank you again for the trust that you
21 have placed in me and my team, and I would just
22 like to also recognize Dr. Ann Golden, who is my
23 partner in this study at Northwell. Dr. Golden
24 was instrumental in getting the paid firefighter
25 cancer presumption bill passed in New York state,

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2 and now she is working with me and leading the
3 effort to get the same type of cancer presumption
4 bill passed for volunteer firefighters. So I am
5 lucky to have her as the lead on my team, and I
6 just welcome anyone stopping by the booth to ask
7 any questions; and again, I can't stress enough
8 how much we appreciate the opportunity to work
9 with this great organization, and let's make this
10 study a success and get the answers we need to
11 protect future generations.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Dr. Moline, thank you very
15 much. As Dr. Moline said she'll be around.
16 She'll be at the health and wellness booth to
17 answer any questions. If anybody needs
18 additional packets to take back home with them,
19 talk to Dr. Moline, and I'm sure she'd be very
20 willing to get you what you need. As Dr. Moline
21 said, it's very, very important that we all
22 participate, get the numbers needed to do this
23 study.

24 I know that you all have a very busy
25 schedule this morning to attend to.

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5 Thank for being with us this morning.

7 (Applause.)

13 For clarification, the voting on Saturday
14 on the amendments to the by-laws proposed by the
15 FASNY Re-Organizational Committee, voting will be
16 on Saturday at the conclusion of the Saturday
17 session, and the polls will be open until 2:00.

18 For our first order of business, I will
19 entertain a motion to adopt the convention agenda
20 as printed in the official program of the 145th
21 Annual Convention. I will entertain a motion.

22 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: I make a motion
23 we offer it up.

24 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Please use the microphone,
25 state your name and state your county that I

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2 said. Please, it's for the young lady up here
3 that's trying to record everything. There's two
4 microphones in the aisles.

5 MR. HOCKENJOS: Robert Hockenjos, Nassau
6 County, requests to open up the conference,
7 Mr. President. Make a motion.

8 MR. SWEET: David Sweet, Monroe County,
9 President of Northern Central. I move that the
10 agenda be adopted with the addition of the
11 opportunity to take action on the report of the
12 reorganization committee following that report.

13 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: As a point of
14 explanation, the action on the proposed by-law
15 amendments will occur on Saturday by paper
16 ballot.

17 What we need now is a motion to adopt the
18 convention agenda with the clarification that the
19 President just made a few moments ago.

20 MR. SWEET: It's my feeling though that
21 discussion should follow that report and possibly
22 a motion there.

23 MR. PIENKOWSKI: They'll be a room set
24 aside. The committee will be in there. Attorney
25 Cooke will be in there, Attorney Pelletier will

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2 be in there, to answer questions this afternoon
3 from 1:00 until 3:00 if anybody has any
4 questions, and it will be voted on on Saturday.

5 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: Did he make the
6 motion, or --

7 MR. PIENKOWSKI: According to the
8 Secretary, the motion is out of order. A motion
9 was asked for to adopt the printed agenda.

10 MR. MCCONVILLE: Robert McConville, Suffolk
11 County, will make that motion.

12 MR. PIENKOWSKI: We have a motion to adopt
13 the agenda that was printed of the 145th Annual
14 Convention of the Firemen's Association of the
15 State of New York. Do I hear a second?

16 MS. HOLLAND: Marsha Holland, Chautauqua
17 County, President of Southwestern Association of
18 Volunteer Firemen, seconds that motion.

19 MR. PIENKOWSKI: We have a motion, and we
20 have a second.

21 On a question?

22 MR. SWEET: On a question. I would ask
23 that the body vote this particular motion down;
24 again, for the reasons I stated earlier. I feel
25 that we should have the opportunity to have the

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2 report returned to the committee for additional
3 input from the membership before we actually take
4 action in the form of a by-law change.

5 MR. PIENKOWSKI: All in favor of the
6 motion, please stand.

7 (Audience complied.)

8 MR. FARRELL: One hundred and twelve (112).

9 MR. PIENKOWSKI: You may be seated.

10 Those opposed, please stand. Those
11 opposed, please stand.

12 (Audience complied.)

13 MR. FARRELL: Twenty-one (21).

14 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you for your
15 assistance Sergeant-at-Arms Farrell. The motion
16 passes 112 to 21.

17 The minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting have
18 been posted on the FASNY website. Mr. Secretary,
19 are there any additions or corrections to the
20 2016 annual meeting minutes?

21 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. President, there are
22 no additions or corrections.

23 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Secretary D'Alessandro
24 says there are no additions or corrections to the
25 2016 annual meeting minutes. I will entertain a

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2 motion to adopt the minutes of the 2016 annual
3 meeting.

4 MR. MACK: Bruce Mack, Niagara County,
5 President of Western, moves to adopt the 2016
6 minutes.

7 MR. PIENKOWSKI: We have a motion.

8 Is there a second to adopt the 2016 annual
9 minutes of the meeting?

10 MR. HOLLAND: Lyle Holland, past president
11 of Southwestern, seconds the motion.

12 MR. PIENKOWSKI: All in favor?

13 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

14 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. PIENKOWSKI: So carried.

17 Mr. Secretary, is there any unfinished
18 business that has been carried over from the 2016
19 annual meeting?

20 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. President, there is
21 one item of unfinished business carried over from
22 the 2016 annual meeting, and that is the report
23 of the FASNY reorganization committee. For the
24 purposes of having an accurate record of the 2017
25 annual meeting, I want to inform the membership

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2 that the committee had submitted a set of by-law
3 changes. They did follow the process that is
4 outlined in the current by-laws, which is they
5 send the proposed changes to the secretary, I
6 forward them on to the by-laws committee for
7 review of four very specific items, which they
8 did. They prepared a report that Chairman Ed
9 Tase of the by-laws committee presented to the
10 FASNY Board of Directors, and then the FASNY
11 Board of Directors took action by passing the
12 motion at its Board meeting to move the proposed
13 changes for a vote at the 2017 annual meeting.

14 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Secretary
15 D'Alessandro.

16 To conclude the unfinished business report
17 of the FASNY reorganizational committee, I
18 introduce Timothy Hannigan, Chairman of the FASNY
19 reorganizational committee, for the purpose of a
20 presentation on the upcoming vote for the by-law
21 change. Welcome, Tim.

22 MR. HANNIGAN: Thank you.

23 Good morning.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

25 MR. HANNIGAN: About last year at this time

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I said that our committee was finalizing our
proposals and I hoped to be back this year with a
firm set of proposals to present. I'm happy to
report that that is the case. Sitting in the
audience this morning I couldn't help but think
that the way that events unfolded this morning
it's very appropriate that our committee's
proposals are being presented at this hour
following the completion of all those. You heard
Jamie Smith Quinn talk about how important it is
to have a vision for the future. You heard the
Commissioner from Homeland Security talk about we
need to get younger. We need to engage our
younger members. You heard Dr. Moline say we're
going to need between 50 and 100 thousand
firefighters to respond to make that survey
effective. As of today we have about 41,000,
42,000 members of FASNY. We need to grow. As
you can readily see, even I'm not under 30 years
old. I'm apparently an old guy now according to
the Commissioner of Homeland Security. We need
to get younger, and as Jamie Smith Quinn said, we
need to have a vision for the future. We've
survived 150 years to this point, and we need to

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2 pave the way for the next 150 years, and all
3 those next 150 years will grow this membership

4 So with that backdrop, I would first like
5 to thank the many members of our committee that
6 are here today; Roy Dahlen, Mike DeVittorio, Jim
7 Farrell, Jerry Bohley, who I saw in the back
8 there; Tom Rothdiener, John D'Alessandro, John
9 Snykus, and Bob McConville. We had pretty
10 extraordinary discussions over the course of two
11 years about if we could look at FASNY from an
12 over the top, bird's eye perspective and
13 guarantee every member the right to vote and to
14 show representation in FASNY for every member,
15 how would we do that? And that formed the basis
16 of our recommendation that I'll present to you
17 now that Mr. Cooke, Miss Pelletier, and I will be
18 available for to answer questions up in the
19 Onondaga room E, and then it's available on the
20 FASNY website as well.

21 Our proposals -- and I recognize many of
22 you from visiting various sectionals this year,
23 so I'll be somewhat brief, but our proposal is to
24 permit for the first time in FASNY's history
25 electronic balloting to give every member of

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2 FASNY a voice in the election of leadership of
3 its Board of Directors, Presidents, and Board of
4 Trustees. Now FASNY, as I indicated before, is
5 about 41,000 members currently. In order for all
6 of those members to vote in any given election,
7 we'd have to have this convention down the road
8 in a carrier dome so everybody could sit in there
9 and vote, but right now we don't have a facility
10 big enough for everybody to fit, and that's a
11 wonderful problem to have. We are strong in our
12 number, but it's not practical to expect that
13 every member of FASNY will be able to attend the
14 convention, and that's why our committee was
15 passionate about ensuring that every member have
16 a right to vote and to conduct that
17 electronically. Obviously that would be a
18 required change in the by-laws. That's one of
19 our proposals, but in order to organize how those
20 votes would be cast, and how members would be
21 elected to represent each area of this state, we
22 propose to divide the state in six election
23 regions for election purposes only so that two
24 trustees and two directors would represent each
25 region statewide. Again, for the first time in

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2 FASNY's history guaranteeing statewide
3 representation on both the Board of Trustees and
4 the Board of Directors.

5 The other change that coincides, and Mike
6 De Vittorio, he was our math guy, in terms of the
7 chart for 2018, he came up with how that would go
8 in terms of telling us that we'd have to change
9 the term limits because the numbers of regional
10 directors, he came up with that. Where it
11 currently exists in the Board of Directors there
12 are five year term limits. Six regions, two per,
13 four year term limits would be the change, and
14 that would apply for directors and trustees.

15 Significantly for those members present here,
16 past service in FASNY would not count against
17 term limits going forward, so there would be the
18 new term limit cap would be two consecutive four
19 year terms. One change that we did not make that
20 currently exists, the President, Second Vice
21 President, and First President could run for
22 unlimited terms. They currently have two year
23 terms, and there's no cap on the number of times
24 that that person could run. I think you can see
25 that by the amount of work that's required in

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2 those two year terms I'm not sure these gentlemen
3 would want to be doing this in perpetuity, but
4 they're certainly capable of it; and I could tell
5 you candidly having travelled the state of mind
6 with them this year, we're in very good hands.

7

8 Another critical point of our committee's
9 discussion was engaging the membership and
10 engaging firefighters that are beyond our
11 membership. For example, right now if Governor
12 Cuomo signs this cancer bill, firefighters who
13 aren't members of FASNY will benefit, and there
14 they should. They're entitled to that, but those
15 people are people who will benefit from the
16 wonderful efforts that our Board has pushed
17 forward in legislature, and they're not counting
18 themselves among our ranks, and we should count
19 them among our ranks. So in order to activate
20 the membership and spread the word about what
21 FASNY does and all that FASNY has available, what
22 we propose is to change the number of petition
23 signatures required in order to run for our
24 leadership positions in FASNY from 25 to 200
25 individual members of FASNY. So for a person
 seeking elected office for either a trustee or

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director, they need to obtain 200 membership signatures and 10 organizational endorsements.

4 Think about mathematically; and again, I went to
5 law school, because I'm terrible at math and
6 science, but if you think of every -- right now
7 all we're going to get is 25 signatures. If
8 every director or trustee goes out and speaks to
9 200 people and 10 organizations, the word about
10 FASNY will spread like wildfire, and that's a
11 good thing for the strength of this organization
12 today and in the future.

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2 committee was comprised of a who's who of FASNY.

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I'm talking about some of the people seated out
4 here; past presidents, trustees, committee
5 members. We have the pride of Rush, Diana.

6

We've had members from every walk of FASNY, and
7 the conversations that we had and the thoughts
8 that you're having concerning this proposal,
9 believe me we discussed; and believe me we were
10 passionate about it, but together we realized
11 that this plan is what we believe the best plan
12 going forward to ensure, from a membership level
13 that the members of FASNY, which is the heart of
14 FASNY, which is the strength of FASNY, that the
15 members have a voice, and that the members can
16 participate in this process.

17

As President Pienkowski stated, the vote on
18 our proposals will occur on Saturday. When that
19 vote occurs, it will be by written ballot, and
20 that will authorize both a change to the by-laws
21 for our proposal, as well as any necessary
22 changes to the certificate of the corporation.

23

In closing, as the Commissioner said
24 perfectly, we have all different coats and
25 different plaquers and different passions on our

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2 plate, but when we're here and when we speak of
3 the fire service, we are one team. We are FASNY.
4 No matter the patch, no matter the plaquer, no
5 matter the shirt color, we are all FASNY, and we
6 are strongest together when we act together,
7 whether that's on the fire ground or at the
8 Capital telling the Governor to do the right
9 thing.

10 I thank you for your time this morning, and
11 I leave you with this. I ask you on Saturday to
12 vote to strengthen this organization and to grow
13 this organization to a number, to meet at least
14 the minimum number that we're going to need in
15 order to do this cancer study. I ask you to vote
16 to engage and encourage participation among new
17 and younger members and people who are out there
18 statewide who benefit from FASNY but aren't yet
19 members, and I'd ask you to vote to give every
20 member of FASNY a voice.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Would the members in the
24 room that served on the reorganizational
25 committee please stand?

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2 (Audience complies.)

3 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Tim, thank you to you and
4 your committee for all your time and your effort
5 regarding the by-law change the last two years,
6 many meetings, and it's greatly appreciated by
7 the officers and members to you and your
8 committee.

9 Voting for the by-law change will take
10 place during general election on Saturday in the
11 Onondaga E, F, and G room, which is right next to
12 the convention center here. Reorganization
13 questions and answer room is the Onondaga E room
14 today from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. KLEIN: Good morning again.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

18 MR. KLEIN: Our first order under new
19 business is the introduction of candidates for
20 elected officers.

21 Would John P. Farrell, Robert H. Ottaviano,
22 and Lynd Hicks please come forward to the dais
23 for the purpose of introductions.

24 While they are making their way up here, I
25 call on Gordy Kotars for the purpose of an

1

2 introduction. Gordy is in the back of the room
3 and will make his introduction from the back of
4 the room.

5 MR. KOTARS: Thank you, President Klein.

6 I'm Gordy Kotars from Onondaga County and
7 President of the Central New York Firemen's
8 Association. I come before you this morning to
9 speak on behalf of our missing director who is
10 out on assignment, Director Brian McQueen, who is
11 in Chittenango this morning.

12 "Good morning members of the dais, FASNY
13 family, and guests. As outgoing director for
14 FASNY and Second Vice President of the Central
15 New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, I'm
16 here to introduce Kenneth J. Holmes, Sr., to the
17 position of director for this great association.

18 In 1981 Ken followed his dreams and became a
19 member of the West Moreland Fire Department.

20 During his tenure with the West Moreland Fire
21 Department he has served as Lieutenant, Captain,
22 Second Assistant Chief, First Assistant Chief,
23 and Chief of the Department. In 1998 he became
24 the fire district's district chief, overseeing
25 the incident and business operations of the

1

2 has held the positions of treasurer, second vice
3 commander, first vice commander, and commander.

4 He then transferred to Post 46 in Park Mills, New
5 York, where he serves as the Sons of the American
6 Legion's first vice commander and membership
7 chair. Ken resides with his best friend and
8 fiance, Kelly, and her son Scott. Ken's son, Ken
9 Junior, has followed in his footsteps and has
10 become an active member of his department.

11 In closing, let me say that it has been a
12 pleasure to work with Ken on many events and
13 FASNY initiatives and know through the proper
14 mentoring and guidance he will serve the 110,000
15 volunteers with desire, dedication and
16 determination.

17 I encourage you all to support Ken in
18 filling the spot of director for the Firemen's
19 Association of the State of New York."

20 Respectfully submitted by Brian F. McQueen.

21 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Gordy. As you have
22 heard, Brian is out at that press conference, so
23 Gordy stepped in at the last minute. Thank you,
24 Gordy.

25 Pete, do you want to say something?

1

2 MR. HOLMES: Pete Holmes, Oneida County, is
3 proud to present Ken Holmes on a second.

4 MR. KLEIN: Okay, Pete, thank you.

5 There are no seconds to introductions, but
6 Pete, we're glad that you got up in support of
7 your son. I know what that feels like, Pete.
8 Thanks.

9 Okay. Next I call to the podium John P.
10 Farrell, Jr.

11 MR. FARRELL: Good morning, President
12 Pienkowski, Vice President Klein, Board of
13 Directors, Board of Trustees, Reverend Clergy,
14 members, and guests. It is truly an honor for me
15 to have the privilege to introduce to you Walter
16 W. Eck for the position of trustee for the
17 Firemen's Home. Bill is no stranger in the fire
18 service. He has over 40 years of service with
19 the Slingerlands Fire Department, which he has
20 served in the capacity as the Chief and currently
21 serves as Chairman of their fire district.

22 Bill serves as the career industrial
23 firefighter for 20 years and is currently
24 employed as an industrial fire protection
25 specialist. Bill currently serves as the

1
2 chairman of the Albany County Fire Advisory
3 Board. He served as vice chair for the Albany
4 County local emergency preparedness committee,
5 vice president of the Capital District USAR team,
6 vice president of the Rural Albany County Rescue
7 and Ambulance Association, and a member of the
8 Albany County EMS Council. He is also a past
9 president and life member of the Hudson Mohawk
10 Volunteer Firemen's Association, Albany County
11 Volunteer Firefighters' Association, Town of
12 Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Association, the Royal
13 Order of the Night Hawks, and the Royal Order of
14 the Blue Vests. Bill is an active member of the
15 Firemen's Association of the State of New York,
16 Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association,
17 New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, the
18 Association of Fire Districts of the State of New
19 York, the Volunteer Fire Police Association of
20 the State of New York, and the Rensselaer County
21 Fire Chiefs Association.

22 During his childhood, Bill visited the
23 Firemen's Home many times with his father, Walt,
24 who had served as a trustee, and also in the
25 capacity of vice president of the Board. It was

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2 during this time Bill realized how cherished the
3 Firemen's Home was, not only to his family, but
4 to the entire volunteer fire service within the
5 state of New York.

10 Walter Bill Eck, please stand up and be
11 recognized.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. FARRELL: Thank you very much.

14 MR. KLEIN: There are no other candidates
15 for the position of director for the seat that is
16 now held by Brian F. McQueen.

17 I will now call to the podium Robert H.
18 Ottaviano, Jr. Thank you.

19 MR. OTTAVIANO: Good morning.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

21 MR. OTTAVIANO: I had Steve Goodman send me
22 a 75 page introduction this morning, but the
23 president told me I only had one minute to talk
24 so I had to whittle it down.

25 MR. PIENKOWSKI: You have three minutes.

1

2 Time's up.

3 (Laughter.)

4 MR. OTTAVIANO: Thank you. Fifteen. Okay,
5 thank you.

6 It is my pleasure to introduce my friend,
7 Stephen Goodman, as a candidate for a second five
8 year term as a trustee of the FASNY Firemen's
9 Home.

10 Steve is an active 18 year member of the
11 Vigilant Engine Hose and Ladder Company of Great
12 Neck. He is also a member of the Firemen's
13 Association of the State of New York, Southern
14 New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, and a
15 past president and current treasurer of the
16 National County Volunteer Firemen's Association.

17 He has always served with the utmost
18 professionalism and has never turned down a
19 request to do more for any organization. In
20 addition to his service in the fire service,
21 Steve has served on numerous committees in his
22 community of Great Neck. He is a graduate of
23 Pace University and has been working in the
24 finance field since 1964. I wasn't even born yet
25 in '64.

1

2 (Laughter.)

3 MR. OTTAVIANO: This history of service, in
4 addition to his business experience and
5 knowledge, will make Steve an outstanding
6 candidate for the office of trustee.

7 Thank you, and God bless you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Bobby O.
10 There are no further candidates for the
11 position of Firemen's Home trustee currently held
12 by Stephen Goodman.

13 Lynd Hicks, please.

14 MR. HICKS: Hello. My name is Lynd Hicks.
15 I am president of the Monroe County Volunteer
16 Fire Police Association and have worked with Alan
17 Way for many years in numerous fire
18 organizations. Not only has Alan been a
19 president of many local, county, and state fire
20 police organizations, he has served as chaplain
21 for many years in our county fire police
22 organization and has been on the chaplains'
23 committee for FASNY, New York State Volunteer
24 Fire Police Association, Western New York
25 Volunteer Firemen's Association, Northern Central

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2 New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, as well
3 as Monroe County Volunteer Fire Police. This has
4 aided Alan in his first five years as a home
5 trustee and will in his next five years. You see
6 that kindness, thoughtfulness, and compassion,
7 and work ethic needed to be a home trustee are
8 the qualifications he has.

9 I, therefore, I am pleased and honored to
10 nominate Alan Way for a second five year term as
11 a home trustee.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Lynd. Just for
14 clarification to the record, you are not
15 nominating him, you are introducing him. Thank
16 you.

17 There are no further candidates for the
18 position of Firemen's Home trustee for the seat
19 currently now held by Alan C. Way.

20 MR. PIENKOWSKI: I now introduce Secretary
21 John S. D'Alessandro for the purpose of an update
22 of a contested election.

23 Secretary D'Alessandro, please.

24 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. President, members
25 and guests, I have been recently informed in my

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2 capacity as secretary that one candidate has
3 withdrawn for the position on a seat of the FASNY
4 Board of Directors. So we now have an
5 uncontested election. Jose DaRocha is the only
6 candidate. I will ask Jim Farrell come up and
7 introduce him now, and there will be no election
8 for that Board seat on Saturday.

9

(Applause.)

10

MR. FARRELL: Good morning.

11

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

12

MR. FARRELL: There's certainly some changes here to my notes.

14

Reverend Clergy, guests, officers, members

15

and delegates. I stand here before you to introduce Joe DaRocha. Joe has previously served

17

FASNY as Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms and as a

18

member of the Board of Trustees, and he is currently serving FASNY as the director position

30

he was appointed to earlier in the year

31

a member of the Albertson Hook and Ladder Company
in Albertson, New York, for over 50 years. He

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has served all line officers up to and including
Chief engineer and now commanding as a trustee of

25

the fire company

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2 Over the years Joe has served as chairman
3 of the Board of Firematics organizations in
4 Nassau County, past President of North Shore Fire
5 Council, North Shore Firemen's Holy Name Society,
6 and the Eighth Battalion Past Chiefs'
7 Association. He is also director at large of
8 Southern New York Firemen's Association. He is
9 also chairman of Long Island Day at the Firemen's
10 Home.

11 Joe is seeking a two year term at FASNY to
12 fill out the unexpired term created when Mike
13 Reed had to resign as director.

14 Joe has been endorsed by many
15 organizations, including Nassau County, Suffolk
16 County, Hudson Valley, and Westchester County.

17 I am proud to present to you Joe DaRocha.
18 Joe.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. President, for the
21 purpose of having an accurate record of this
22 proceeding, I would like to ask Tom Rothdiener to
23 come to the microphone to make a statement.

24 MR. ROTHDIENER: Good morning. I stand
25 before you not representing a fire department, a

1
2 sectional, a county, but a FASNY member and a
3 friend. Sue Scognamiglia submitted her name for
4 director of FASNY, a position held by Mike Reed.
5 At this time Sue withdraws her name from the
6 position and puts her support towards the
7 nominating officers. She looks forward to
8 assisting FASNY's future goals in whatever role,
9 position, or committee she may serve on. I
10 encourage us all to support Sue. She thanks
11 those who have shown their support in this
12 endeavor and wishes everyone a great and safe
13 convention.

14 Thank you.

15 (APPLAUSE.)

16 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Tom.

17 There are no other candidates for the
18 position of director for the seat now held by
19 Jose DaRocha.

20 Is there any other new business to come
21 forth at the annual meeting?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Is there any other new
24 business?

25 (No response.)

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2 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Is there any other new
3 business?

4 MR. KLEIN: For the purpose of his annual
5 report it gives me great pleasure to call on your
6 President Kenneth M. Pienkowski, President of the
7 Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

8 (APPLAUSE.)

9 MR. PIENKOWSKI: For 145 years the
10 Firemen's Association has pursued a straight
11 forward but very informative mission to maintain
12 support and serve the volunteer fire service of
13 New York and promote and protect the public they
14 serve through education, legislation,
15 communication, recruitment and retention,
16 recognition, and community service to promote the
17 haven at the FASNY Firemen's Home for our
18 volunteer firefighters. Over the past year it
19 has truly been an honor to represent this great
20 organization across the state of New York. In my
21 acceptance speech one year ago I pledged to you,
22 the FASNY membership, that we would continue to
23 grow FASNY's reputation as a premiere volunteer
24 firefighter's association in the nation. Along
25 with First Vice President Klein, Second Vice

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2 President Farrell, our dedicated Board of
3 Directors, and our exceptionally talented staff,
4 we have done that and so much more, but we cannot
5 do it alone.

6 At the core of any great organization is an
7 energy involved membership. For us to serve you,
8 the volunteer fire service, better, we need you
9 to be involved. We need to know what you are
10 thinking. We need to know what we are doing
11 right, and perhaps most importantly, we need your
12 input to be able to do things better. As part of
13 our core mission, FASNY continues to provide
14 educational seminars throughout the year and at
15 the annual convention. Several years ago this
16 association realized that recruitment and
17 retention issues are challenges that we all must
18 face head on. The response to these challenges
19 are a 365 day responsibility and not just one
20 weekend during the year. Despite the significant
21 gain we have made, there are far too many
22 departments across the state that still struggle
23 with obtaining new members. Lack of industry
24 with three shift operations, both family members
25 working full-time or holding dual jobs, lack of

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2 development in many communities where there is no
3 or very few residents, our younger generations
4 leaving their communities in pursuit of education
5 or jobs, are all barriers to volunteering. In
6 light of all this, what is volunteer fire service
7 going to face in coming years? Should we be
8 concerned today? The answer is that we
9 absolutely must. While I wish we could look into
10 the crystal ball to find solutions to these
11 challenges, that is simply not reality. Reality
12 is that we must continue to develop greater
13 programs and resources; and above all, work
14 together. Your county and local associations
15 meet on a regular basis. The topic of
16 recruitment and retention must be a consistent
17 item on meeting agendas. As for FASNY, your
18 state organization, to help at the local level we
19 must know who has a problem, who has an approach
20 that is working, and what we can do to assist you
21 in your efforts.

22 Another important area for FASNY is
23 legislative action. This past legislature
24 session, through the hard work of all these
25 strategic associates, ASA, and the FASNY

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2 legislative committee, CAO Quinn and Secretary
3 D'Alessandro, along with the support and
4 assistance of the other state organizations, the
5 presumptive cancer legislation passed both
6 houses. We must now wait for Governor Cuomo to
7 call for the bill and sign it into law, but rest
8 assured we are not just sitting and waiting. We
9 are all working to make sure when the Governor
10 calls for the bill he has the answers to any
11 questions that may come up and that he
12 understands beyond any doubt the importance of
13 this bill to volunteer firefighters.

14

So now I have a simple question for you.
15 Have you done your part? Have you taken five
16 minutes of your time to fill out our engaged
17 email, call his office, or signing one of the
18 petition letters at the information table? We
19 cannot do this alone. We need the support of
20 every FASNY member, every volunteer firefighter,
21 and their family members. There are over 100,000
22 volunteers in New York. There is no reason that
23 we should not have at least 10,000 people
24 contacting the Governor on this critical issue.
25 Unfortunately, right now we have only about 15

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2 percent of that number. The volunteer fire
3 service and their families need to be stronger
4 than ever and be heard to get this legislation
5 signed into the law. You can go to the FASNY
6 website to fill out the engaged email and have it
7 sent directly to the Governor. You owe it to
8 yourself, your brother and sister firefighters,
9 and the firefighters who have yet to come to
10 invest in your time and your families.

11 Unfortunately, having presumptive cancer coverage
12 only helps minimize the impact after a tragedy
13 hits. FASNY is equally committed to minimize the
14 number of firefighters who fall pray to this
15 terrible disease. Towards this goal, FASNY will
16 continue to offer training classes at your fire
17 station and how your firefighters can take care
18 of themselves, their turnout gear, and equipment
19 to better protection themselves. This class is
20 free, and it's presented by Chief Brian McQueen,
21 who is retiring after serving on the FASNY Board
22 of Directors for the past 11 years. Brian
23 unfortunately is not here. On behalf of the
24 FASNY officers, both present and past, we thank
25 you for taking the time to travel the state to

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2 educate our volunteer firefighters and their
3 families on what should be done to be safer,
4 healthier, and stronger. If you are interested
5 in hosting this class, please contact Chief Brian
6 McQueen.

7

This past year would not have been the
8 success it was without the services and support
9 from our communications and legislation partners.
10 We are grateful to Dan Klores Communications,
11 DKC, for doing all the great publications and
12 setting up our many press conferences. Rob
13 Leonard and his staff worked hard and tirelessly
14 to make FASNY look great across the state.
15 Unfortunately Ron is not here. He's on
16 assignment at Chittenango.

17

ABC Creators is responsible for the design
18 and publication of the nationally recognized
19 volunteer firefighter magazine, the monthly
20 e-communication, maintaining the FASNY home web
21 page, the FASNY Facebook pages, and producing all
22 of our printed materials. Travis Bort, thank you
23 to you and your great staff for everything you
24 do. You heard me say in our mission,
25 communications. I think we're doing a great job.

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2 Albany Strategic Advisors, ASA, is a firm that
3 does all our government affairs work. Paul Zuber
4 and his colleagues report to the Board on a
5 monthly basis; and while news is always not
6 positive, they are constantly on guard to protect
7 FASNY's interest. They are also responsible for
8 the legislative updates presented at the
9 sectional meeting. Thank you ASA staff for a
10 great job.

11 Each April FASNY has its annual Recruit New
12 York weekend. Unfortunately, the number of
13 organizations participating this year was lower
14 than last year. 2018 Recruit New York weekend
15 will be held April 28th and 29th. It is never
16 too early to start planning. It's never too early
17 to partner with neighboring departments, and it's
18 never too early to get new departments to get on
19 board.

20 This past May FASNY Firemen's Home
21 celebrated its 125th anniversary, along with a
22 dedication of the caring window in the chapel.
23 It was a great weekend for the residents of the
24 FASNY Firemen's Home and staff and the many
25 people that participated and attended. We would

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2 like to say thank you to everyone that was
3 involved in making it a truly great event. A
4 special thank you to the Hudson Fire Department
5 for organizing the parade and to the FASNY Museum
6 of Firefighting for organizing and hosting the
7 antique fire muster.

8 I'm also happy to inform you that within
9 the next couple of years there will be some big
10 changes to the landscape of the FASNY Firemen's
11 Home complex. Two structures that were on the
12 complex had to be demolished due to
13 deterioration. Just this week construction was
14 started for a multipurpose facility that will
15 stand on the location where the old pavilion
16 stood. This facility will be constructed to
17 accommodate functions regardless of the weather
18 and will last for many years. In addition to
19 that project, your capital projects' committee is
20 working with a design team for a portico over the
21 main entrance and one over the ambulance entrance
22 to better protect people from inclement weather.
23 Outside the main dining room there will also be a
24 permanent building erected for the residents to
25 eat and relax in.

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2 Yet the larger project of the property will
3 be the addition to the FASNY Firefighters'
4 Museum, which is long overdue. If you haven't
5 been to the museum, you don't know what you have
6 been missing. It's no longer a warehouse of
7 antique fire apparatus. Through hard work and
8 creativity, it has become the recognized
9 educational institution for young and old.
10 Unfortunately, we have not been able to add new
11 apparatus in many years due to space limitations.
12 The capital projects' committee is working with
13 the museum board and staff to increase it's
14 reputation as a world class museum.

15 I would also like to congratulate all the
16 FASNY award recipients who have been honored in
17 this past year. The Board has developed a new
18 award procedure with a goal of making the process
19 more efficient and streamlined. All award
20 applications must be submitted by March 15th. I
21 have no doubt that every organization must have
22 at least one member that is eligible to be
23 nominated for one of the many FASNY awards that
24 are presented annually, whether it be the teacher
25 of the year, fire educator of the year, youth

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2 group of the year, fire service achievement
3 award, firefighter of the year, EMS provider of
4 the year. It is very important that the
5 leadership take the time to submit one of their
6 own who is deserving of being honored by their
7 peers.

8 The strength of FASNY is no different than
9 the strength of any good fire group. We work as
10 a team, and the many things we accomplish each
11 year is the result of the hard work of many
12 people. I would like to thank Vice Presidents
13 Steven Klein and John Farrell, the FASNY officers
14 and Board of Directors, the committee members,
15 the Board of Trustees of the FASNY Firemen's Home
16 and the FASNY past Presidents for all their
17 support and dedication they give to the FASNY
18 membership. No president of this organization
19 could ask for a better team than the one I have
20 been blessed with.

21 I would be remiss if I did not offer
22 special thanks to FASNY director Brian McQueen
23 for his 11 years on the FASNY Board of Directors
24 and to Michael Reed, director Michael Reed, for
25 his nine years on the board, and to Chief Tom

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2 McKinney for his 10 years as a trustee to the
3 FASNY Firemen's Home. Those three gentlemen are
4 true leaders and will be greatly missed. Thank
5 you for your time, dedication, and commitment to
6 FASNY.

7 Thank you to CAO Quinn and the FASNY office
8 staff for everything they do on a daily basis for
9 FASNY membership and more importantly for the
10 officers. You are exceptionally talented and
11 greatly appreciated.

12 I would also like to thank the many
13 sectionals, county organizations, and fire
14 departments for all the invitations to your
15 events and the hospitality you have shown me when
16 I get there. Unfortunately, there is so much
17 time in a week that we can't always get to
18 everything. Nonetheless, your friendship and
19 support is everlasting.

20 In closing, I would like to thank my lovely
21 wife, Barb, for her full support and
22 understanding this past year. I stated last year
23 that behind every good man is a strong,
24 supportive, and loving wife. In my case, this
25 could not be more true. Many thanks also to my

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2 I am going to paraphrase a home member, Bob
3 Funk, if you've ever seen the video for the
4 Firemen's Home, Bob says, we're a family.

5 Sometimes we're a dysfunctional family, but we're
6 a family. FASNY is a family. Sometimes we're a
7 dysfunctional family. If you've seen my two
8 grandsons who are here with me, that is the
9 definition of dysfunctional.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. KLEIN: Oil and water don't mix, and in
12 ever family -- in most families, there is a
13 kindly old grandfather, father, an uncle,
14 somebody that can herd cats and gets that family
15 to operate as a family, and this president is
16 that fellow. That's as appropriate as I can say
17 it. This gentleman will get in a car and drive
18 at the last minute's notice to stand in front of
19 a camera and talk about cancer. He will come to
20 the home and work with the trustees on their
21 problems. He works with the Board. He addresses
22 the issues with the staff. Kenny is the person
23 that brings everything together and makes this
24 organization what it is. Thank you, Ken. Thank
25 you for the great report. I look forward to

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2 continue on next year and accomplishing more and
3 more success for FASNY under your leadership.

4 For the purpose of a motion, the chair
5 recognizes FASNY member Barbara Pienkowski.

6 MRS. PIENKOWSKI: I would like to make a
7 motion to accept the President's report for the
8 2017 convention.

9 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Barbara.

10 Do I have a second to that motion?

11 MR. MCQUEEN: I second the motion.

12 MR. KLEIN: Brian McQueen seconds the
13 motion? Thank you, Brian.

14 All in favor of the motion?

15 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

16 MR. KLEIN: Any opposed?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. KLEIN: Motion is carried.

19 Thank you very much.

20 MR. PIENKOWSKI: I now call upon Secretary
21 John D'Alessandro for the annual report of the
22 Secretary's office. Secretary D'Alessandro,
23 please.

24 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. President, my report
25 was submitted and is published in the book of

1

2 committee reports that is available at the
3 registration table.

4 MR. PIENKOWSKI: I now call upon Treasurer
5 Tommy L. Krawczyk for the annual report of the
6 Treasurer's office of FASNY.

7 MR. KRAWCZYK: My annual report is too in
8 the program book. Please take one home with you.
9 I'm happy to report our finances are in very good
10 shape. We just completed our annual preliminary
11 audit as of June 30th by Joe Battaglia and
12 Company, and everything looks pretty good at this
13 point in time.

14 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Treasurer
15 Krawczyk.

16 I now call upon Patricia Phesay, our
17 Director of Finance, for the annual 519 report
18 for the Firemen's Association of the State of New
19 York.

20 Patricia, please.

21 MS. PHESAY: Good morning.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

23 MS. PHESAY: The annual report of the Board
24 of Directors of the Firemen's Association is
25 required to be read at the convention. The

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2 report will be entered into the official minutes
3 as well as being filed at the FASNY Albany office
4 in Albany.

5 "To the Members of the Firemen's
6 Association of New York: The Board of Directors
7 respectfully submits for your information the
8 following report related to the Firemen's
9 Association of New York for the 12 month fiscal
10 period ending June 30, 2017.

11 The assets and liabilities, including
12 trusts funds, listed separately, of the
13 corporation as of the end of said fiscal period
14 are as follows: Assets, the total assets is
15 \$44,706,404.00. Liabilities, total of
16 \$1,802,193.00. Trust funds are not applicable.

17 The principal changes in the assets and
18 liabilities, including trust funds, of the
19 corporation during said fiscal period were as
20 follows: Assets increased due to the timing of
21 the two percent foreign fire tax program receipt.

22 The revenue or receipts of the corporation,
23 both unrestricted and restricted to particular
24 purposes, during the said fiscal period were as
25 follows: Unrestricted revenues or receipts,

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6 corporation, for both general and restricted
7 purposes, during said financial period were as
8 follows: Expenses or distributions for general
9 purposes totalling \$15,564,736.00. Expenses or
0 disbursements for restricted purposes are not
1 applicable.

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corporation: The number of members as of June 30, 2017 is 44,688. The number of members decreased by 709 during the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. The names and places of residence of the current members may be found in the books of the corporation, which are kept at the Firemen's Association of the State of New York office at 107 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12210.

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2 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Pat.

3 I now call upon David A. Quinn, Chief
4 Administrative Officer of FASNY, for a report on
5 the future FASNY conventions from 2019 through
6 2025. Chief, please.

7 MR. QUINN: Good morning.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

9 MR. QUINN: We find it hard to believe,
10 Steve, that Liam is oil.

11 MR. KLEIN: No (laughter).

12 MR. QUINN: The convention and exhibits
13 committee of FASNY has been active this year in
14 solidifying our annual meeting and convention
15 venues for the upcoming future. During the past
16 year, they recommended to the FASNY Board of
17 Directors, and the Board approved, adding on
18 another year here in Syracuse to carry us at this
19 particular venue through 2019.

20 To help the association with planning, the
21 committee and the Board also has established
22 regional areas of the state whereby our
23 conventions and annual meetings will be held.
24 This will be very helpful due to the size and
25 magnitude of our annual meeting and convention

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2 needs. Our requests for proposals need to go out
3 years in advance given the large venues required
4 to hold our events. The following will be our
5 future venue areas around the state whereby FASNY
6 conventions and annual meetings will be held.

7 2020 to 2021, Nassau County, Long Island.

8 2022 to 2023, Albany Capital District area.

9 2024 to 2025, Western, New York.

10 We thank you on behalf of the Board for
11 your attendance at our conventions. We hope you
12 enjoy your time during the convention, have
13 positive networking experiences, and participate
14 in the many, many activities and events that
15 happen throughout the week.

16 If you have any thoughts or suggestions on
17 our future conventions, please feel free to let
18 one of the Board of Directors know about them,
19 and they will field that with the FASNY
20 Convention and Exhibits Committee.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, David.

23 It's my pleasure now to call on the FASNY
24 Foundation Treasurer, Thomas L. Krawczyk, for the
25 foundation annual 519 report.

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6 MR. KRAWCZYK: I have the 519 report as
7 submitted by our auditing company, Joe Battaglia
8 and Associates. It's for the foundation for the
9 12 month period ending June 30, 2017. "To the
10 members of the Firemen's Association of the State
11 of New York Foundation, Inc. The Board of
12 Directors respectfully submits for your
13 information the following report related to the
14 Firemen's Association of New York Foundation,
15 Inc., for 12 month fiscal period ending June 30,
16 2017. The assets and liabilities including trust
17 funds listed separately of the corporation as of
18 the end of the said fiscal period, which is June
19 30, 2017, totalled \$136,752,044.00; liabilities
20 are none. Trust funds are none. For principal
21 changes in the assets and liabilities including
22 trust funds of the corporation during the said
23 period were as follows: The foundation
24 investment portfolio increased with the favorable
25 stock market performance and expenses decreased

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2 slightly during that period.

3 The revenue of the corporation, both
4 unrestricted and restricted to particular
5 purposes during the said fiscal period were as
6 follows: The unrestricted revenue for receipts
7 totalled \$14,222,047.00. The revenues were
8 restricted to a particular purpose is none.

9 Expenses or disbursements of the corporations for
10 both general and restricted purposes during the
11 said fiscal period were \$4,489,667.00; and the
12 current membership of the corporation as of June
13 30, 2017 is one. The number of members increased
14 by zero during the following past year. The
15 names and places of the residences of the current
16 members can be found in the books of the
17 corporation, which are kept at the Firemen's
18 Association of the State of New York offices at
19 107 Washington Avenue in Albany.

20 This has been prepared pursuant to Section
21 519 of the not-for-profit corporation law signed
22 by the President, Steven Klein, and myself as
23 Treasurer.

24 MR. KLEIN: Now I will tell you that the
25 officer and committee reports are printed in the

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2 convention ad book, which is available at the
3 office of the secretary at the registration desk.

4 I will now entertain a motion to accept the
5 printed reports as they appear in the ad book,
6 which are available at said registration desk.

7 MR. TASE: Ed Tase makes the motion.

8 MR. KLEIN: Ed Tase makes the motion.

9 MR. BUTTS: Wayne Butts seconds it.

10 MR. KLEIN: Wayne Butts seconds the motion.

11 Is there anything under discussion?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. KLEIN: All in favor?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

15 MR. KLEIN: Anybody opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. KLEIN: The motion is approved.

18 MR. FARRELL: Good morning, again.

19 Remember the two percent tax forum this
20 afternoon at 1:00 p.m. also here in the
21 convention center. Your credentials will be
22 scanned and your certificates will be made
23 available this evening and the remainder of the
24 convention. Certificates will be located in the
25 ballroom foyer.

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2 This afternoon the "Michael D. Whelan Walk
3 in the Park" for the fight against cancer will
4 take place at 4:00 p.m. at the Willow Bay Shelter
5 located at the Onondaga Lake Park.

6 You may register onsite or save time and
7 register with Laci at the Ways and Means area.
8 Individual entries are a donation of \$15.00 or
9 get a group of four together for only a \$25.00
10 donation.

11 The awards presentation will take place
12 onsite immediately following the walk. The
13 Syracuse Food Truck Association will be onsite
14 with food and beverages. All donations and
15 proceeds from the "Walk in the Park" and the
16 "After Walk Party" will go to the Firefighters'
17 Cancer Support Network in memory of Secretary
18 Michael D. Whelan.

19 If you need directions to the park, go to
20 the registration desk as well.

21 Please remember that all training and
22 education programs tomorrow will start at 8:00
23 sharp. Please make certain that you are
24 registered for tomorrow's training. If you have
25 still not registered, you may still do so at the

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2 registration desk.

3 Please be aware that your badge will be
4 scanned at all forums, and your badge must be
5 used for all the functions. Certificates will be
6 available in the ballroom foyer during the
7 "Scholarship Fun Night."

8 Games and music and complimentary desserts
9 will be on Friday evening. There will be a cash
10 bar available. The excitement begins at 6:30
11 p.m. Winners of the prizes will be announced
12 later in the evening. This is an extremely
13 important event for FASNY.

14 Please take the time to visit and give a
15 quick thank you to our sponsors and our
16 supporters. Please visit each of those booths.
17 They really appreciate it. Their contributions
18 to FASNY help make this convention and events
19 during the year an extreme success.

20 The FASNY Federal Credit Union Annual
21 Meeting of the membership will be held tomorrow
22 at 8:00 a.m. in the ballroom center.

23 I have just one miscellaneous announcement,
24 the Nassau Caucus, Friday at 4:00 p.m.,
25 convention room A and B. Southern Caucus will

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2 follow immediately.

3 I hereby recess the annual meeting until

4 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Vice President
8 Farrell.

9 Remember if anybody has any questions on
10 the proposed by-law changes, in the Onondaga room
11 from 1:00 to 3:00 they'll be in there to answer
12 your questions.

13 Brian McQueen and Bob McConville, please
14 come to the dais.

15 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned to
16 Saturday, August 12, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.)

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2 **C E R T I F I C A T I O N**

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4 STATE OF NEW YORK)

5) SS.:

6 COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

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8 I, JAMIE J. WOODARD, a Court Reporter and
9 Notary Public, for and within the State of New
10 York, do hereby certify:

11 THAT the above and foregoing contains a
12 true and correct transcription of the proceedings
13 held on August 10, 2017 at the Firemen's
14 Association of the State of New York Annual
15 Convention, Village of Liverpool, New York, and
16 were reported by me.

17 I further certify that I am not related to
18 any of the parties to this action by blood or by
19 marriage and that I am in no way interested in
20 the outcome of this matter.

21 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
22 hand this 10th day of February, 2018.

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JAMIE J. WOODARD