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

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11 August 10, 2017  
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14 **B E F O R E:** Kenneth M. Pienkowski, President  
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23 Jamie J. Woodard  
24 Court Reporter  
25 P.O. Box 59  
Ridge, New York 11961  
(631) 345-2386

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MR. PIENKOWSKI: Good morning.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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

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At this time I would ask that you silence your cell phones, and please, there will be no food or drinks allowed in the meeting room during the memorial service and the general sessions. During those sessions everyone must be seated.

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

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

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

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

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(Whereupon, the Memorial Service was  
conducted.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1  
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,

1  
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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(Applause.)

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

1  
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



1  
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.

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

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2 another addition to the museum. Thank you,  
3 President Pienkowski, you are a man of vision.  
4 You imagine not what the museum is just today,  
5 but what it can be, and thank you for your  
6 continued commitment to preserving the history  
7 and tradition of the volunteer fire service in  
8 New York state. Thank you also to past President  
9 McConville for being the engine that made this  
10 project move forward and for his boundless energy  
11 for this project. It's just amazing. And thank  
12 you to FASNY foundation president, Steve Klein,  
13 for always, always being a supporter of the  
14 museum and this project as well. This addition  
15 is vital to the museum for many reasons. First  
16 of all, because we do not have any fire apparatus  
17 beyond the '70's. This is a gap of almost 50  
18 years in collecting. This leaves a huge hole in  
19 the collection. This addition will ensure that  
20 the firefighters of the recent past, their  
21 methods and apparatus, will be represented at the  
22 museum. Maybe it seems incredible to you to  
23 think the recent methods will not be preserved,  
24 but there come a time when electronic devices  
25 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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(Laughter.)

MR. PIENKOWSKI: I would like to introduce the current FASNY officers and directors.

Please stand as I call your name, and I ask that you hold your applause until the end of introductions.

My First Vice President, and a great friend, Steven E. Klein, Oceanside Fire Department, Nassau County; Second Vice President John P. Farrell, Jr., West Athens Lime Street Fire Department, Green County; and past President, Selden Fire Department, Suffolk County, Robert N. McConville.

Members of the Board of Directors:

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

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2 Appointed officers of the Firemen's  
3 Association of the State of New York:

4 Our Secretary, John D'Alessandro, Saratoga  
5 County; our Treasurer, Thomas L. Krawczyk, Erie  
6 County; our Chief Administrative Officer, David  
7 Quinn, Rensselaer County.

8 Ladies and gentlemen, the elected officers  
9 and appointed officers of the Firemen's  
10 Association of the State of New York.

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



1  
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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I am going to name all of our past officers, whether they're here or not, so if they don't stand, you'll realize they're not here, I guess.

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

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

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

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

(Applause.)

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

1  
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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MR. SCHMIDT: Also with us today is the Assistant Administrator Lacy Florentino-Consoleni.

(Applause.)

MR. SCHMIDT: Our current Board, please stand and rise. Vice President Wayne Butts, Secretary Walt Geidel, Junior Past President David Blair, Tom McWinnie, David Wolf, Fred Griffiths, Alan Way, Mike De Vittorio, Gerry Owenburg, Peter Cincotta, Dennis Eickhoff, Marilyn Schrader, Jim Interdonati; and our current President, Kenneth Pienkowski. Our current board.

(Applause.)

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

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

20 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Very well.

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

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2 busy schedule so we do understand, and at this  
3 time I would like to introduce our First Vice  
4 President, Jean Christiansen.

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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MR. PIENKOWSKI: Wow. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

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

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

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

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ladies' luncheon and re-present it to you this

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morning.

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Ladies, please take a couple of minutes. I

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know Dianne hasn't seen it. It's a great honor.

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That plaque will be mounted at the FASNY

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Firemen's Home between the plaque of LAFASNY past

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presidents and the past president of LAFASNY

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Board of Trustees --

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(Applause.)

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MR. PIENKOWSKI: (Continued) -- that is no

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longer.

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(Applause.)

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MR. PIENKOWSKI: This plaque is long

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overdue. Dianne, when you go back and start your

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general session, I'm sure you're going to talk

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about it, and rightfully so, and please express

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the appreciation from the Firemen's Association

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of the State of New York to the past presidents

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of LAFASNY and everything they have done for

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FASNY and the Firemen's Home.

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MS. WERNER: Thank you so much.

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MR. PIENKOWSKI: Your support is very, very

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much appreciated. As we saw this morning, I look

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forward to a continued working relationship with



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LAFASNY. Thank you.

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

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(Applause.)

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MR. FARRELL: Good morning.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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

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(Applause.)

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

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convention.

MR. WELCH: Again, my name is Chad Welch. I'm with Visit Syracuse as Christie mentioned, and I just really want to thank everybody for coming this year and in the past. We're really looking forward to '18 and '19 as well; and Ken, I really appreciate all your efforts to support the locals here, and we appreciate everything you volunteers do. It means a lot to, not only our city, us, but for all the residents as well, so thank you. Again, welcome on behalf of Visit Syracuse and Onondaga County. So thank you, and enjoy the conference.

(Applause.)

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

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

(Laughter.)

MS. BLISS: Just checking.

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

1  
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.

1  
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.)

1  
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 ut  
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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(Applause.)

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

(Applause.)

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

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



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

1  
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

1  
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

1  
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.

11 Last on the sales pitch, we encourage you  
12 to become a part of the alliance representing the  
13 National Fire Service. Become a member of the  
14 National Volunteer Fire Council. What does that  
15 give you? Again, there's a flyer in your packet  
16 that kind of explains the benefits of it. More  
17 importantly, if it gave you nothing other a  
18 pocket card, it knows that you're supporting,  
19 because it does take some funding, as you know.  
20 It takes funding to run your state. It takes  
21 funding to run a national alliance, and so the  
22 National Volunteer Fire Council needs your  
23 support. It gives you access to a \$10,000.00  
24 AD&D policy. It gives you access to the  
25 training. It gives you access to some other

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

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. FARRELL: Also with us is Gene Conway,  
24 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 MR. CONWAY: (Continuing) -- we're going to  
24 extend you our best wishes and hope you have an  
25 enjoyable time here, and certainly above

1  
2 everything else, stay safe.

3 Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. FARRELL: We also have Fredrick Senti,  
6 Jr., who is First Vice President of the  
7 Association of Fire Districts of the State of New  
8 York; Kenneth Preston, Second Vice President of  
9 the Association of Fire Districts of the State of  
10 New York; and Joe DeStefano, Secretary/Treasurer  
11 of the Association of Fire Districts of the State  
12 of New York. We also have Tom Herlihy, past  
13 President of the Association of Fire Districts of  
14 the State of New York; Robert Parese, Second Vice  
15 President, New York Association of Fire Chiefs;  
16 Jerry DeLuca, Executive Director for the New York  
17 Association of Fire Chiefs; Reverend James Van  
18 Houten, Chief Chaplain, New York State  
19 Association of Fire Chaplains; Ken Askew, First  
20 Vice President of the Volunteer Fire Police  
21 Association of the State of New York. We also  
22 have Joe Reinford, the Fire Coordinator of  
23 Onondaga County; John Loucks, Fire Chief of  
24 Liverpool Fire Department. We have Troy Markel,  
25 who is President of the Volunteer Firemen's

1  
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,  
14 New York State Division of Homeland Security and  
15 Emergency Services for the purpose of a  
16 presentation.

17 Skip, welcome. It's always a pleasure to  
18 see you; but more importantly, it's an honor to  
19 work with you and your office. Welcome to the  
20 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  
24 friends. I was starting to use the word old. I  
25 don't want to use those things. I'm here to

1  
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

1  
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

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

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

1  
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



1  
2 Office of Fire Prevention and Control supports  
3 the state's firefighting community in many ways,  
4 and that's what I really want to discuss. OFPC  
5 provides basic exterior and interior fire  
6 training, fire officers, specialized firefighter  
7 training at the fire academy and regionally. I  
8 am proud of all the work that we do at OFPC. Our  
9 fire investigators frequently work with all the  
10 fire departments to determine the cause and the  
11 origin of the fire. Our team of investigators on  
12 our accelerant detection canine teams have proven  
13 to be extremely helpful in uncovering the causes  
14 of fires across the state, and we look forward to  
15 continuing this partnership with you.

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

1  
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

1  
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.

1  
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

1  
2 training opportunities offered at each facility.

3 I would also like to mention the work that  
4 our grants' department does to support volunteer  
5 firefighter improvement efforts in our state. As  
6 you know, the volunteer firefighter and volunteer  
7 emergency service workers recruit and retention  
8 fund, the source of funding for the recruitment  
9 and retention grant program. This was  
10 established in New York State tax law 2009.  
11 These grant funds, supported through GIFS, by  
12 personal income tax return filers go toward the  
13 organizational leadership development. These  
14 funds help the fire service organize develop and  
15 implant recruiting and retention programs and  
16 materials. The first competitor recruitment and  
17 retention grant was released in 2012 and totalled  
18 approximately \$390,000.00. The second iteration  
19 of this grant occurred in fiscal year '15/'16 and  
20 totalled approximately \$360,000.00.

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

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next line really has, which was proofread by

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Skip, says reach out to me. Reach out to Skip.

4

(Laughter.)

5

MR. PARRINO: Thank you again for inviting

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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

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remember that last year our President was here

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and our CEP was here. Today you get me, but I'm

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really happy to be here, and I think the key

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message you just heard was really we get so much

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more done when we're in partnership, and I was so

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honored as my former capacity, when I worked for

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the Department of State and got to work with your

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very own past President Jim Burns, Marilyn

1  
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

1  
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



1  
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

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governor to sign it.

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

Very quickly, and I want to speak about the young gentleman here from the National Volunteer Fire Service. He talks about PTSD. There's people in this audience four years ago that saw me at the New York State Chiefs' Conference. A little woman five foot four set me off. I went 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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it came until I got help. I would strongly go

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along with this, to have this in, because this is

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something that is coming into the fire service,

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and it's coming in and hitting firemen hard.

6

Thank you very much, and I hope to see

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everybody at the Michael D. Whelan walk this

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afternoon, and if you have any other questions,

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please stop by my booth, and I'll be glad to

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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

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donate this check in the amount of \$2,500.00 to

20

the Firefighter's Cancer Support Network for

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everything you do.

22

Thank you.

23

(Applause.)

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MR. BARZ: On behalf of the association --

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Thank you for the promotion, but I am the

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regional director.

(Laughter.)

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

(Applause.)

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Ron.

I would like to pause here for a minute to remember our brother and sister firefighters who have lost their battle with cancer. You know who they are. We all know a firefighter who has had cancer or is currently battling cancer; and unfortunately, one of us in this room and many of our firefighters we know will be battling this dreadful disease, unfortunately, in the future. This is why it is so important that all of our members send letters to the Governor urging Governor Cuomo to sign our presumptive cancer legislation into law without delay. The officers of our different state organizations cannot do it alone. You the members here this morning, your brothers and sisters back home, need to be very vocal and send a strong a message to our

1  
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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Dr. Moline, welcome.

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(Applause.)

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

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

1  
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

1  
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



1  
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

1  
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

1  
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

1  
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

1  
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,

1  
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.

1  
2           Sergeant-at-Arms Holmes will now escort you  
3 from the dais. You are more than welcome to  
4 remain in attendance if you wish.

5           Thank for being with us this morning.

6           Sergeant-at-Arms Holmes.

7           (Applause.)

8           MR. PIENKOWSKI: As we begin our business  
9 session, association members are reminded that if  
10 you are making a motion or a second, please  
11 proceed to one of the microphones in the aisles,  
12 and state your name and county for the record.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1  
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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report returned to the committee for additional input from the membership before we actually take action in the form of a by-law change.

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

(Audience complied.)

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

MR. PIENKOWSKI: You may be seated.

Those opposed, please stand. Those opposed, please stand.

(Audience complied.)

MR. FARRELL: Twenty-one (21).

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

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

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

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

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motion to adopt the minutes of the 2016 annual meeting.

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

MR. PIENKOWSKI: We have a motion.

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

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

MR. PIENKOWSKI: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. PIENKOWSKI: So carried.

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

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

1  
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

1  
2 I said that our committee was finalizing our  
3 proposals and I hoped to be back this year with a  
4 firm set of proposals to present. I'm happy to  
5 report that that is the case. Sitting in the  
6 audience this morning I couldn't help but think  
7 that the way that events unfolded this morning  
8 it's very appropriate that our committee's  
9 proposals are being presented at this hour  
10 following the completion of all those. You heard  
11 Jamie Smith Quinn talk about how important it is  
12 to have a vision for the future. You heard the  
13 Commissioner from Homeland Security talk about we  
14 need to get younger. We need to engage our  
15 younger members. You heard Dr. Moline say we're  
16 going to need between 50 and 100 thousand  
17 firefighters to respond to make that survey  
18 effective. As of today we have about 41,000,  
19 42,000 members of FASNY. We need to grow. As  
20 you can readily see, even I'm not under 30 years  
21 old. I'm apparently an old guy now according to  
22 the Commissioner of Homeland Security. We need  
23 to get younger, and as Jamie Smith Quinn said, we  
24 need to have a vision for the future. We've  
25 survived 150 years to this point, and we need to

1  
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

1  
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

1  
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



1  
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 Another critical point of our committee's  
8 discussion was engaging the membership and  
9 engaging firefighters that are beyond our  
10 membership. For example, right now if Governor  
11 Cuomo signs this cancer bill, firefighters who  
12 aren't members of FASNY will benefit, and there  
13 they should. They're entitled to that, but those  
14 people are people who will benefit from the  
15 wonderful efforts that our Board has pushed  
16 forward in legislature, and they're not counting  
17 themselves among our ranks, and we should count  
18 them among our ranks. So in order to activate  
19 the membership and spread the word about what  
20 FASNY does and all that FASNY has available, what  
21 we propose is to change the number of petition  
22 signatures required in order to run for our  
23 leadership positions in FASNY from 25 to 200  
24 individual members of FASNY. So for a person  
25 seeking elected office for either a trustee or

1  
2 director, they need to obtain 200 membership  
3 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.

13           Additionally, another change that we  
14 propose that is presently not in the current  
15 by-laws, in the spirit of ensuring equal  
16 representation across the state and a voice for  
17 every member of FASNY in the leadership of FASNY,  
18 is that vacancies will be filled from the  
19 election region where the vacancy occurs. That  
20 guarantees that each member of the state has the  
21 same number of representatives on the FASNY board  
22 at any given time. That provision presently does  
23 not exist in FASNY. Again, our -- and many of  
24 you know everybody on this committee, because  
25 you're all very actively involved in FASNY, our

1  
2 committee was comprised of a who's who of FASNY.  
3 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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(Audience complies.)

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

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

15

Thank you.

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MR. KLEIN: Good morning again.

17

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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

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

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While they are making their way up here, I 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 volunteer firefighters under his command. Ken  
3 also served as in the presidency of his  
4 department's executive committee. Ken didn't  
5 leave his local fire service in West Moreland as  
6 he became a very active member of the Oneida  
7 County Volunteer Firemen's Association, serving  
8 on the Board of Directors and paving the path for  
9 his run through the trailers of the presidency.  
10 Ken currently serves as the chairman of the  
11 nominations and elections committee. Later Ken  
12 joined FASNY under the direction of his father,  
13 Peter, serving under the fire prevention, fire  
14 chiefs, and the firefighter gains committees. In  
15 2009 Ken was appointed to Assistant  
16 Sergeant-at-Arms by President Tom Cuff; and after  
17 Wayne Kelsey's untimely death President  
18 Jacobowitz appointed him to the position of  
19 Sergeant-at-Arms, where he currently serves our  
20 board. We all know that Ken takes his volunteer  
21 fire service duties with pride and dedication.  
22 He extends those two characteristics to his  
23 surrounding communities. He is a member of the  
24 Sons of the American Legion Post 404 in nearby  
25 Vernon, New York; and while serving that post, he

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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 fiancée, 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?



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

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MR. KLEIN: Okay, Pete, thank you.

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

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

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

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Bill serves as the career industrial firefighter for 20 years and is currently employed as an industrial fire protection 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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during this time Bill realized how cherished the Firemen's Home was, not only to his family, but to the entire volunteer fire service within the state of New York.

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There is no question that Bill Eck, with his outstanding work ethics, leadership, and most of all his commitment to the fire service, will truly be a tremendous asset to the Board.

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Walter Bill Eck, please stand up and be recognized.

12

(Applause.)

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MR. FARRELL: Thank you very much.

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

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

19

MR. OTTAVIANO: Good morning.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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

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MR. PIENKOWSKI: You have three minutes.

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Time's up.

(Laughter.)

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

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

Steve is an active 18 year member of the  
Vigilant Engine Hose and Ladder Company of Great  
Neck. He is also a member of the Firemen's  
Association of the State of New York, Southern  
New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, and a  
past president and current treasurer of the  
National County Volunteer Firemen's Association.  
He has always served with the utmost  
professionalism and has never turned down a  
request to do more for any organization. In  
addition to his service in the fire service,  
Steve has served on numerous committees in his  
community of Great Neck. He is a graduate of  
Pace University and has been working in the  
finance field since 1964. I wasn't even born yet  
in '64.

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(Laughter.)

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

Thank you, and God bless you.

(Applause.)

MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Bobby O.

There are no further candidates for the position of Firemen's Home trustee currently held by Stephen Goodman.

Lynd Hicks, please.

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

1  
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

1  
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  
13 changes here to my notes.

14 Reverend Clergy, guests, officers, members  
15 and delegates. I stand here before you to  
16 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  
19 currently serving FASNY as the director position  
20 he was appointed to earlier in the year. Joe is  
21 a member of the Albertson Hook and Ladder Company  
22 in Albertson, New York, for over 50 years. He  
23 has served all line officers up to and including  
24 Chief engineer and now serving as a trustee of  
25 the fire company.

1  
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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MR. PIENKOWSKI: Is there any other new  
business?

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

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(Applause.)

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

1  
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

1  
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

1  
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

1  
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

1  
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.

1  
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



1  
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.

1  
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

1  
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

1  
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

1  
2 son, Jamie, his family; my daughter, Jennifer,  
3 for their support and understanding. I love them  
4 all. When I became President I chose as my theme  
5 building a healthier, stronger, and safer  
6 volunteer fire service. We have come a long way  
7 in the past year, and we have no intention of  
8 stopping. In fact, our goal should be to make  
9 New York volunteer fire service the healthiest,  
10 strongest, and safest in the nation.

11 With your continued support and  
12 involvement, there is no reason this cannot  
13 become a reality.

14 Once again, thank you. Stay safe. God  
15 bless you, your families, and our great nation."

16 Respectfully submitted, Ken Pienkowski,  
17 FASNY President.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. KLEIN: Thank you very much, Ken.

20 For those of you who have seen flurries or  
21 paper flying around the table here, we do work  
22 off a script, and it is -- You can also see it  
23 changes constantly, so thanks to the two  
24 gentlemen on my right, especially today. A  
25 couple of last minute changes.

1  
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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continue on next year and accomplishing more and  
more success for FASNY under your leadership.

4

5

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

6

7

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

8

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.

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. President, my report

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was submitted and is published in the book of

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committee reports that is available at the  
registration table.

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

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

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Treasurer  
Krawczyk.

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

Patricia, please.

MS. PHESAY: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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



1  
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,

1  
2 totalling \$19,900,363.00. Revenues or receipts  
3 restricted to a particular purpose is not  
4 applicable.

5 Expenses or distributions of the  
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  
10 disbursements for restricted purposes are not  
11 applicable.

12 Concerning the membership of the  
13 corporation: The number of members as of June  
14 30, 2017 is 44,688. The number of members  
15 decreased by 709 during the period of July 1,  
16 2016 through June 30, 2017. The names and places  
17 of residence of the current members may be found  
18 in the books of the corporation, which are kept  
19 at the Firemen's Association of the State of New  
20 York office at 107 Washington Avenue, Albany, New  
21 York 12210.

22 This report has been prepared pursuant to  
23 Section 519 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation  
24 Law, dated August 10, 2017, Syracuse, New York.

25 Thank you.

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MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Pat.

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

MR. QUINN: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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

MR. KLEIN: No (laughter).

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

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

1  
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.

1  
2           The officer and committee reports are  
3 printed in the convention ad book, which is  
4 available at the office of the secretary at the  
5 registration desk.

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

1  
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

1  
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.

1  
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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registration desk.

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

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

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

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

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

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follow immediately.

I hereby recess the annual meeting until  
9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Vice President  
Farrell.

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

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

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

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
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 ) SS.:  
 )  
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK )

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

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

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

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

JAMIE J. WOODARD