

1

1

2

3

4

THE

5

HOTEL

6

ROAD,

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

President

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 84TH ANNUAL
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE FIREMEN'S
ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD ON
5TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2017, AT THE DESMOND
AND CONFERENCE CENTER, 660 ALBANY SHAKER
ALBANY, NEW YORK.

B E F O R E: Kenneth Pienkowski,

21
22
23
24
25

Jamie J. Woodard
Court Reporter
P.O. Box 59
Ridge, New York 11961
(631) 345-2386

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

2

1

you

2

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Good morning. Would

3

kindly please come in and take your seats.

4

Sergeant-at-Arms Farrell, can we have

5

everybody come in please, sir?

6

MR. FARRELL: Sure.

7

sitting

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Everybody must be

8

please.

down, please. No standing in the back,

9

chairs

There's some chairs up here. There's some

10

in the center here (Indicating).

11

We're good to go?

12

MR. FARRELL: Yes.

13

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Good morning.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.
15 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Welcome to the 84th
Annual
16 FASNY Legislative Conference.
17 The exits are located to your rear and
to
18 the front. If there is an alarm, it will be
19 announced from the dais by our CAO, because
I'll
20 already be out the door.
21 (Laughter.)
22 MR. PIENKOWSKI: I expect that you will
23 follow directions from the podium and exit
the
24 ballroom in an orderly fashion.
25 At this time I would ask that you
silence

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

3

1
2 your cell phones, and please, there will be
no
3 food or drinks allowed in the meeting room
during
4 this morning's session. Everyone must be

seated.

5 Thank you.

6 We are now about to begin our 84th
Annual
7 Legislative Conference. Please stand for the
8 Pledge of Allegiance led by FASNY
9 Sergeant-at-Arms Donald Farrell, and please
10 remain standing for our invocation.

11 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance
was
12 recited.)

13 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Please welcome FASNY
14 Chaplain, Reverend Samuel P. Lundy, for the
15 invocation this morning. Reverend Lundy,
please.

16 (Whereupon, invocation prayers by
Reverend
17 Samuel P. Lundy.)

18 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Reverend
Lundy.
19 You may be seated.

20 I hereby call the 2017 Annual
Legislative
21 Conference to order. Welcome. We have a
great
22 turnout here on a Sunday morning. Let's all
23 please remember Tuesday is Election Day.
Please
24 encourage your family members and your
brother

25

and sister firefighters to get out and vote.

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

4

1

2

When you go to the polling place, please give

3

serious consideration to put on either your

4

firefighter shirt or your county shirt and

let

5

the people at the polling places know that

you

6

represent the volunteer fire service in the

state

7

of New York. It's very important. The

volunteer

8

fire service is very strong, and we're much

9

stronger than we were a year ago, and it's

very

10

evident about the support and participation

we

11

received in getting the cancer legislation

passed

12

in the law. All the organizations throughout

the

13

state were out there hollering for assistance

to

14

sign letters. We turned in over 6,000 signed

15 letters to the Governor's office. That's not
16 counting the amount of people that went on
17 websites and filled out the form encouraging
our Governor to sign the cancer legislation. He
18 listened. He did it. Please also when
19 you're at the polls support those that support you as a
20 volunteer fire department and support your
21 organization.
22

23 This past weekend I know there's been
many committee meetings, many caucuses. I would
24 just like to thank the FASNY Legislative Committee
25 for

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

5

1
2 all your work up to this point and also the
3 sectional and county legislative chairmen for
4 your full cooperation and support to get
where we are this morning when the legislative comes
5 forth

6 and reads their proposals.

7 At this time I would like to welcome to
the
8 podium FASNY First Vice President Steven
Klein
9 for some introductions of our officers and
10 guests.

11 Vice President Klein, please.

12 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, sir.

13 Good morning.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

15 MR. KLEIN: I'm glad to see everybody
16 remembered to reset their clock and everybody
was
17 here on time. Thank you.

18 I am going to introduce the current
19 officers and Board. If you could please rise
20 when I call your name and remain standing
until
21 everybody is introduced. Thank you.

22 The President of the Firemen's
Association
23 of the State of New York, Kenneth Pienkowski;
24 First Vice President, me; Second Vice
President,
25 John P. Farrell, Jr., Immediate Past
President,

6

1

officers,
2

Robert N. McConville. Our appointed

3

David A. Quinn, Chief Administrative Officer;

4

John D'Alessandro, Secretary; Tom Krawczyk,

5

Treasurer.

6

On the dais with us this morning our

and
7

Chaplains, you already met Reverend Sam Lundy

Farrell,
8

Barrie Lyn Foster. Sergeant-at-Arms Don

9

Assistant Sergeant-at-Arm Tommy With; our

10

attorney, Edward M. Cooke, Esq.

Laurie
11

The directors of your association,

12

Hance, Santo Chan Rivera, Joe DaRocha; Edward

Perry,
13

Tase, Diana Pfersick, Michael Caron, Gene

14

and Ken Holmes. Did I get everybody? Good.

morning:
15

Past Presidents that are with us

16

1996 to 1998, Gunnar Nielson; 2002 to 2004,

17

Joseph Finnegan; 2010- 2012, Dave Jacobowitz;

18

2012-2014, Jim Burns; and you've already met

our

19 junior past president.

20 Past directors that are with us here
this

21 morning: Roy Dahlen left this morning, so
he's

22 not here; Bill Grant, 1989 to 2003; David
Sweet,

23 2005–2015; and Brian McQueen, 2006 to 2017.

24 Did I miss anybody? Thank you.

25 These are your current and past
officers of

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345–2386

7

1

2

our association.

3

(Applause.)

4

MR. KLEIN: With us representing our

5 brother and sister organizations this
morning,

6

Christiansen

LAFASNY First Vice President, Jean

7

is here. Thank you, Jean.

8

(Applause.)

9

MR. KLEIN: New York State Association

of

10 Fire Chiefs represented by past President Dan
11 Schwertfeger.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. KLEIN: Danny, thank you.

14 President of New York State Fire
Police,

15 Frank Guarino.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. KLEIN: And the Treasurer of the
New

18 York State Drill Team Captains' Association,
Bill

19 Rowse.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. KLEIN: I would like to call up
22 President Board of Trustees David Schmidt to
the

23 podium to introduce your trustees.

24 MR. SCHMIDT: Good morning. Thank you,
25 President Steve.

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

2 We have some important people with us
3 today, but before I introduce them, I want to
4 thank you personally, all the individuals,
fire
5 companies, fire departments, auxiliaries,
6 excepts, counties, sectionals, and the
7 corporations that have donated to the
Firemen's
8 Home. With your contributions, you help make
9 this a premiere facility in the country, and
we
10 appreciate it.

11 With us today we have some residents of
the
12 home. I am pleased to introduce Bob Funk,
Vice
13 President of Resident's Council; past
Trustee,
14 Bob Darling; and our sidewalk superintendant
for
15 the multipurpose building, Billy Rosenhagen.

16 (Applause.)
17 MR. SCHMIDT: We have an outstanding
staff,
18 and their ride there CNA Ed Barnett. Thank
you
19 very much.

20 (Applause.)
21 MR. SCHMIDT: And our administrator,
Art

22 Proper.
23 (Applause.)
24 MR. SCHMIDT: Please hold your applause
25 until I get through this entire list.

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

9

1
2 Our current Vice President, Wayne
Butts;
3 Secretary Walt Geidel; Junior past President,
4 David Blair; our President, Ken Pienkowski;
David
5 Wolf, Fred Griffiths, Steve Goodman, Alan
Way,
6 Mike De Vittorio, Gerry Owenburg, Peter
Cincotta,
7 Dennis Eickhoff, Marilyn Schrader, Jim
8 Interdonati, and Bill Eck. This is your
current
9 Board.
10 The past trustees that are with us
today is
11 Gunnar Nielson, Bob Darling, who I introduced
12 prior; past President of the Board, Jim
Burns;

13 Jose DaRocha; past President John Montrose,
past
14 President John Farrell, past Secretary Steven
15 Klein; Paul O'Brien; past President Carl
Stefen;
16 and our newest Tom McKinney. We also have
past
17 Presidents of the association who are members
of
18 our Board; Joe Finnegan, David Jacobowitz,
and
19 Bob McConville.

20 Thank you all.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. KLEIN: I'm almost done, and we can
23 move forward. Since I was last up here at
the
24 podium, Shawn Brimhall from the National
Fallen
25 Firefighters' Association has come in, and

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

10

1

2

welcome.

3

And I have one other announcement I

want to

4
Firemen's

call the President of the Hudson Valley

5

Association, Tom Totten, for the purpose of a

6

presentation.

7

MR. TOTTEN: Thank you. At this time I

8

would like to call Tom McKinney up. Hudson

9

Valley and myself personally would like to

10

congratulate Tom McKinney on his service as

11

trustee to the home and to FASNY, and also to

all

12

these endeavors that he does for Hudson

Valley.

13

Hudson Valley will be donating \$250.00

to

14

the Big Bucks fund in Tom's honor so that he

can

15

continue that part of it.

16

Thank you, Tom. Thank you.

17

MR. MCKINNEY: Thank you.

18

(Applause.)

19

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you.

20

Vice President Klein, thank you for all

the

21

introductions.

22

At this time I would like to call upon

23

FASNY Second Vice President John Farrell for

the

24

purpose of introducing our legislative

sponsor

25 this morning.

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

11

1

2

MR. FARRELL: Thank you, Mr. President.

3

Good morning all.

4

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

5

of

I would like to introduce our sponsor

6

Conference

this year's 84th Annual Legislative

7

this morning. Please give a warm welcome to

8

Richard Easterly, Regional Growth Manager for

9

Colonial Voluntary benefits.

10

sponsor

Colonial is a five alarm platinum

11

New

of the Firemen's Association of the State of

12

York. In addition to sponsoring today's

13

conference, Colonial has also sponsored other

14

"Fallen

FASNY events such as "Youth Day" and the

15

convention

Firefighter's Golf Tournament" at our

also 16 this past August. In addition, Colonial is
with 17 a sponsor of FASNY's fall training series
this 18 Christopher J. Naum, which has taken place
19 past October and this month as well.

your 20 Thank you, Rich, for your time, for
year, 21 support of the New York fire service this
and 22 and especially for the enjoyable breakfast
23 coffee that you provided this morning.

24 (Applause.)

you. 25 MR. EASTERLY: Good morning, and thank

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

12

1

2

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

3

to

MR. EASTERLY: I just first would like

4

congratulate FASNY on driving home the cancer

5

raises

bill, making it into law, I think one that

6 awareness, not only for firefighters, but for
the
7 general population. Colonial Life has been a
8 long supporter of not-for-profits,
particularly
9 those that have similar interests. In this
case,
10 the recognition for financial protection from
a
11 cancer diagnosis. I would just like to
quickly
12 mention Colonial Life does have some
underwriting
13 concessions for members of FASNY, for our
cancer
14 products that can be purchased through the
15 firehouses across the state. Those products
can
16 act as a supplement for the benefits that
you're
17 going to receive from the state, probably
more
18 importantly for those members that have the
five
19 years or service less will have the option to
20 purchase some products. So with that, I just
21 again want to congratulate FASNY for the
terrific
22 efforts, and thank you so much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Colonial has a table

25

outside of the meeting room. Please avail

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

13

1

2
conference

yourself to the materials after the

3

today and any questions you may have under

4

benefits and programs for the members of your

5

department.

6
time

6

Thank you once again, Rich, for your

7
honor to

7

and your sponsorship. It gives me great

8
book

8

make a little small presentation, a history

9
our

9

of 125 years of the FASNY Firemen's Home and

10

brand new challenge coins that just became

11

available this week. So again, thank you for

12

everything.

13

MR. EASTERLY: Thank you so much.

14

MR. PIENKOWSKI: We look forward to

15

continue working with you, and thank you for

16

being here on a Sunday morning.

17 MR. EASTERLY: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. PIENKOWSKI: I would like to
introduce

20 David Quinn, FASNY's Chief Administrative
21 Officer, to the dais to introduce our guest
22 speaker this morning. Chief, please.

23 MR. QUINN: Good morning.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

25 MR. QUINN: It's my honor this morning
to

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

14

1

2 introduce Gabriel Deyo. Gab and I met over
the

3 summer during some meetings with OSC staff
about

4 some of the topics that he's going to talk
about

5 today. Gab Deyo is a Deputy Comptroller,

6 Division of Local Government and School

7 Accountability with the New York State

8 Comptroller's Office. Gab was appointed as

the

9 Deputy Comptroller for the Division of Local
10 Government and School Accountability in 2013.
11 Prior to that, he served as Assistant
Comptroller
12 to the First Deputy Comptroller, helping
13 coordinate the activities and agency
budgeting
14 for OSC.

15 Gabriel is a career OSC employee having
16 conducted performance and information
technology
17 audits of state programs and also served as
18 Director of Policy Studies in the Office of
State
19 Comptroller's Division of Budget and Policy
20 Analysis coordinating operations regarding
policy
21 and audit planning. Gab will be speaking
about
22 his report that has been out -- many of you
have
23 received that report as you went through the
24 registration area this morning -- and talking
a
25 little bit about audit and financial best

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

15

1

Gab

2

practice. So please give a warm welcome to

3

Deyo.

4

(Applause.)

5

MR. DEYO: Good morning.

6

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

having

7

MR. DEYO: Thank you very much for

unable

8

me here today. Comptroller DiNapoli was

greetings

9

to attend, but he wanted me to send his

you

10

and his great appreciation for the work that

are

11

do. Firefighters and other first responders

12

always on the front lines running into harm's

and

13

way. We rely on you at every crisis, large

villages

14

small, in cities, counties, towns, and

I've

15

across the state, but I'm sorry to tell you,

I'll

16

got some good news and some bad news. So,

here

17

give you the bad news first. So you can see

a 18 it's Sunday morning. We have a little bit of
19 heavy agenda, right? So I work for the
serious 20 comptroller, and obviously we do a lot of
to 21 stuff. It's a little bit -- I was thinking
22 myself over the weekend, like the church of
the 23 accounting on a Sunday morning. So that's
24 bad news. The good news is, I'm going to go
25 through this in about 15 minutes or so.

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

16

1
2 (Audience cheers.)
3 MR. DEYO: So, you can just see there,
4 we're responsible for doing a lot of work in
about 5 local government, small counties. We have
you, 6 300 staff located all over the state with
7 audits obviously. We also do a lot of
also 8 accounting. We receive fire districts and

9 financial information. We put out policy
reports
10 as well, and we do a lot of training. Some
of
11 the things I'm going to talk about today, I'm
12 going to cover this like really fast, but in
13 those things these would otherwise be covered
in
14 like a full day or more of training, which we
15 offer and are glad to provide, and we offer
16 things through FASNY and other folks, okay.
17 So in March of this year, we put out a
18 report on fire protections services in the
state.
19 I for one -- I live locally in the Town of
20 Bethlehem, and in this role I for my own
sense
21 was always a little confused between fire
22 district, fire department, fire company, and
so
23 we figured that there was a lot of people
around
24 the state that are in a similar boat. So
what we
25 wanted to do was to produce this report so
folks

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

1
2 would have a better understanding of how they
3 obtain their fire services. So when we go
4 through that, I'm just going to talk very
briefly
5 about this. You also have a copy of the
report.
6 I hope you find it helpful. I think this
kind of
7 highlights one of the things that it's so
8 complex. This is fire protection services in
the
9 Town of Alexandria in Jefferson County. So
you
10 can see here that just in this one town, two
fire
11 districts, one fire protection district in
the
12 Village of Alexandria Bay Fire Department.
So
13 it's a little bit hard sometimes to engage
14 citizens when folks don't necessarily
understand.
15 All they know is they call 911, and you all
come,
16 which that's the bottom line, and that's
17 fantastic. We just really wanted to shed a
18 little more light on the topic.

19
stat

So just to give you a little bit of

20
districts

background we receive. By law, fire

21

are required to report to us annually all of

22
data,

their financial information so we have that

23
municipal,

but fire companies, fire departments,

24

city municipal fire departments, all of their

25
but

information is varied, so we don't have that,

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

18

1

2

what we do have is full information 886 fire

3

districts, you can see here, 62 cities and

4

villages with municipal fire departments, so

90,000

5

every city has one. Tribute to you all,

6

volunteer firefighters and 18,000 paid career

7

firefighters in the state.

and

8

So just to give you a quick sense here,

revenue

9

a lot of this is in the report just on

10 and a little bit of the highlighting of
11 expenditures, but I think one of the most
12 important things that are striking and are
13 striking for the taxpayers who kind of sense
that
14 a fire district, 94 percent of those monies
do
15 come from property taxes.

16 I want to talk for a few minutes about
17 recruitment and retention tools. I'm going
to
18 talk about LOSAP and foreign fire insurance.
I
19 know you are all very aware of these. We're
20 responsible for auditing them, so I just want
to
21 give you a little perspective from our point
of
22 view.

23 So annually each fire company has to
24 provide a list of fire districts or the
municipal
25 governing boards that identify all of their

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

1
2 firefighters who are 50 points for the prior
3 year. Once approved, each firefighter will
get
4 that one year of service. So we think that's
5 pretty important, and when we go out and go
to
6 fire districts or companies and conduct
audits,
7 one of the things we want to do is make sure
that
8 folks that are putting their time in get the
9 proper amount of credits. So you can see
here
10 that there's 600 fire district municipalities
11 that have those set programs, and then that
they
12 have the point systems that they have to
award
13 and set up and establish and that every year
14 they're required to submit an annual report
to
15 us.

16 So a couple of years ago -- We do about
500
17 audits a year. Most of the audits that we do
are
18 single audits of one municipality or school
or
19 fire district, and it's addressed to them,
but

20
important

21
across

22
audit,

23

24

25
the

sometimes when we have a bigger, more
topic and we want to see how that works
the state, we do what we call a statewide
which is what we did in 2015 for LOSAP. We
looked at 10 across the state, and we found
essentially four were out of compliance with

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

20

1

2

3

4
most

5

6

7
received

8

9

10
had

points system and four were out of compliance
with the way that they awarded credit. The
bottom line of it is for us the thing that's
important is that there were 36 volunteer
firefighters who didn't receive appropriate
LOSAP. There were 32 that should have
one year of credit; and there were four who
received a year, but should not have in that
case.

11 Also I want to spend a little time
talking
12 about foreign fire insurance. So two percent
of
13 the money to come from fire protection
coverage
14 insurance policy for out of state providers.
The
15 money gets funneled into the New York State
16 Department of Financial Services and
distributed
17 to fire entities. For 2015 it totalled
nearly 39
18 million dollars, a pretty good sum of money.
One
19 of the most important things regarding it
though
20 is that it can be used for pretty much any
21 purpose, which members determine benefits,
the
22 entity as a whole. So that's a good thing --
23 providers are the common examples of the
24 appropriate uses for foreign fire monies. So
25 regarding them though -- and really one of
the

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

21

1
2 things though -- as I said in the beginning,
we
3 appreciate your service, and at the end of
the
4 day the goal is to help people in time of
need,
5 but there's an awful lot of bureaucracy that
goes
6 with this, and that's really some of the
things
7 that I'm talking about here. So overall in
this
8 we recommend that you keep separate
accounting
9 records, you keep the funds in separate
checking
10 and saving accounts; and again, on foreign
fire
11 insurance would be with LOSAP requires to
submit
12 a report to us by the end of February every
year.
13 So when we go in and look at foreign fire
monies
14 at a fire district or entity, we want to make
15 sure that you have records that are properly
16 accounted for, that the uses of the money
have
17 been approved by the membership.

18 So we'll shift over into audit. As I

said,

19 we do have 500 audits a year. We've always
had
20 authority to audit fire districts, but fire
21 departments we just received that in 2007;
and so
22 what we're trying to do is we'll set up an
audit
23 plan for you and try to have some balance
between
24 municipalities, counties, schools and all
25 entities as well. So just to give you a
sense

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

22

1
2 here, over that almost seven year period
almost
3 to 380 just about audits -- if I could count
I
4 know I'm one short -- due September of this
year.
5 So one thing so for fire districts a lot of
the
6 things that we would take a look are required
by
7 law. For fire companies, that's not the

case.

8 They're not required by, covered by local
law.

9 So what we do for those is we look at their
10 financial best practices that are usually in
11 their bylaws.

12 And also one of the things that I
wanted to

13 do -- and just going through this I thought
with

14 these topics as I'm going through this so

15 quickly -- I thought it might be helpful so
if we

16 had copies for all of you to point so you can

17 really kind of use this document as more of a

18 high level guide when you go, so I say save
this

19 because it's going to give a lot of insights
if

20 you do have an audit or had one prepared. So
I

21 just want to be able to see here the
different

22 steps in our audit process. So from the time

23 that you could have received the notification

24 letter that we're going to do an audit until
the

25 time that it's issued could be several
months,

23

1
2 six to nine months depending on the size of
the
3 entity, sometimes it could be a year. Once
the
4 field work is completed we draft either a
letter
5 or a formal audit report and provide it to
the
6 entity. They have 30 days to respond, and
any
7 comments that we get back at that time the
full
8 response is sent to a final copy of the audit
9 report and then along with any updated
comments
10 or notes that would be associated with it.

11 When we come in to do an audit, we'll
often
12 come in to do first a risk assessment, which
13 means we'll take a look at the internal
controls
14 that are running financial, essentially
15 operations for the fire district, fire
16 department, fire company, and then we also
look

17 at things that have the highest degree of
18 possible risk and materiality. We always
19 consider what we call tone at the top of the
20 Board and the chair of the Board, because
that
21 usually is a good sign of whether they're
going
22 to have either strong controls or weak
controls
23 that can help us know where to focus our
24 resources when we come in. Also we always
are,
25 as we are for all our audits, always take a
quick

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

24

1
2 look for fraud.
3 So the next group of slides here, these
are
4 the ones where I'm going to start just to go
5 through these real quickly for you. We
6 understand that for folks, especially
volunteers,
7 you guys are in these positions, you're not

paid,

8 many folks don't have a financial background,
so
9 we kind of view it it's our job to provide
10 training to you all to make your job dealing
with
11 all of this bureaucratic information and
12 processes a little bit easier.

13 So first off, cash receipts policy
provides
14 things like segregation of duties or
compensated
15 controls. Also, it's important to make sure
that
16 deposits are put in timely and completely.

Money
17 that's sitting around is just really an
18 invitation for fraud. Similarly cash
19 disbursement policy, some very basic controls
20 here, but among the most important are having
21 authorized check signatories, controlling
22 electronic fund transfers, credit card usage,
23 auditing and approving claims before they go
out.

24 Having procurement policies, here's the
thing,
25 because you just want to make sure that
things

25

1

2

that you buy you have the ability to purchase

3

them at the best price, as conservatively as

4

possible, so that you can use your money for

5

other things or other purchases that you may

6

need. So a good procurement policy can also

help

7

prevent fraud.

8

Credit cards. Credit cards are

something

9

that we see problems very often, and it's

just

10

kind of the nature of how easy they are to

use.

11

So this slide just really kind of highlights

some

12

quick and easy controls just to make sure

that

13

you're appropriately, that they're only with

the

14

people that should have them, that they're

15

appropriately controlled and that you

reconcile

16

the purchases.

17

So then there's credit cards verses

debit

bit 18 cards. And a debit card is actually a little
19 more dangerous sometimes, depending on what's
ability 20 going on, because someone could have the
21 to take funds without the authority or
approval 22 of the Board.
23 Ethics. So every fire company that is
fire 24 either under control of a municipality, a
25 district, or contracts with a municipal fire

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

26
1
2 district provides fire protection or other
of 3 emergency services is required to have a code
4 ethics, and it's really important that all
the 5 members have it. Given the size of many
6 communities, it's pretty unique to have some
type 7
working situation where either a person that is

8 or volunteering there or their spouse have
some
9 type of interest in a contract or some other
type
10 of agreement. So it's important really to be
11 forthright and be able to identify and
disclose
12 any type of interest that could be considered
13 when viewed questionable, and then also to
make
14 sure that you're fully transparent in doing
so.

15 For annual budgets, always should be
16 prepared and adopted by the Board, and one of
the
17 most important things is to be monitoring
them
18 periodically throughout the year. I have
three
19 or four slides in here on records and
reports,
20 and I am going to be tedious enough to go
through
21 those for you, but they're really for your
help,
22 okay, in trying to again deal with all the
23 additional bureaucracy type of things that
you
24 take on in filling these roles.

25 So it's also important to keep
inventory

27

1

2

control records for your vehicles and your

3

equipment, and then make sure to do every now

and

4

then conduct a periodic inventory of those so

you

5

keep track of them.

6

Fuel records are another important area

7

where it's good to be accountable to be

keeping

8

track of not just vehicles, but for other

uses of

9

it as well, as you can see here and then to

be

10

reconciling it. Then as some examples here,

each

11

vehicle should have a log for all of their

fuel

12

usage. They should be keeping track of all

the

13

receipts, and again, periodically going

through

14

and taking a look.

15

The next few slides really just

highlight

are 16 kind of leveraging off of these things that
find 17 required, some of the things that we often
most of 18 in our audit department, but pretty much,
strength 19 it again goes back to the Board and the
is 20 of the Board in having a good handle on what
21 going on.

slide. 22 We've got a link at the top of this
of 23 If you go there, you can quickly get into all
which 24 our audits of the fire protection services,
25 is a good thing. I know there's folks that

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

28

1
2 receive our weekly newsletter, and I've had
3 occasion to speak to folks that receive it,
and 4 they tell me that it's very helpful for them
to 5 see what's going on and helps them to be able

to

6 run their shops better.

7 Unfortunately, sometimes we do find

8 instances of fraud, and that always, there's

9 always the culprit aside from the person
doing

10 it, there's a lack of proper controls and a

kind

11 of tight oversight. So you can see over the

last

12 several years here we've had 15 fire entity

13 frauds; \$770,000.00. Now in total that
sounds

14 like a lot of money, but very importantly it

15 could be a thousand dollars, it could be five

16 thousand dollars, not a significant amount of

17 money, but Comptroller DiNapoli has made it

18 really one of the top things on his agenda to
go

19 through and identify fraud throughout the

state,

20 and really one of the reasons that it gets to

and

21 because when you do that you take a hard

stance

22 on fraud it can have a really significant

23 deterrent affect, so that's really important.

We

24 want people to be able to think twice before

they

25 step over the line.

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

29

1

2

3

4

fraud

5

that

6

7

don't

8

signs

9

10

11

12

cancer

13

We

14

15

great

Also for your reading, if you're interested, we have some type of audits that we've had where we've identified signs of that are going on. There may be some folks you recognize in here, but they're all on the website. The interesting thing even if you look at who it is it's just looking at the of fraud that happened really. I'm going to quickly get off of that.

(Laughter.)

MR. DEYO: So congratulations on the legislation that you had enacted this year. also had an important fire related bill that Comptroller DiNapoli put out, and we had

16 support from FASNY, and it has to do with
17 negotiations of contracts. We received a lot
of
18 input from some local governments that were
19 having problems getting cost information from
20 fire companies when they're negotiating their
21 fire protection contracts. So in the past
what
22 we've done is just recommend that they have
some
23 type of provision in the contract that will
help
24 them to get that information upfront, but
this
25 year we were getting an increase in the
amount of

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

30

1
2 calls on that so the Comptroller put a
program
3 bill that would require that that just be
part of
4 the process early on. FASNY supports other
fire
5 associations support as well, which we're
very

6 appreciative for, and that was enacted. It
goes
7 into effect in January for contracts that
start
8 in March.

9 We can pass over that, that's just fire
10 commissioner training and firemen.

11 And then just a highlight review that
we
12 offer a variety of fire specific accounting
13 training where we have kind of a small staff,
14 maybe six or seven staff, but last year we
15 trained more than 10 thousand people in the
state
16 on largely financial issues. We have
17 conferences, counties, schools, all over the
18 state, associations like FASNY. We also have
19 things that are webinar-based where we
broadcast.
20 They're also reported so you can access them
21 online, sit back and listen, and don't fall
22 asleep.

23 And then a good way to access all this
24 information is we keep up on our website. We
25 bought the Academy for New York State's Local

31

1

of

2

government officials that kind of houses all

3

our training that's available.

guys

4

So that is all I have. So I wish you

today,

5

good luck on your legislative conference

6

and thank you for having me.

7

(Applause.)

here

8

MR. QUINN: Thank you very much. Also

9

is a small gift for you, a book of our 125th

10

anniversary and a challenge coin as well for

11

spending time with us. Thank you.

12

(Applause.)

much

13

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Gab, very

spending

14

for your presentation this morning and

15

time with us here on a Sunday morning.

the

16

At this time I would like to introduce

Schott

17

FASNY Legislative Committee Chairman Robin

18

and ask him to come up to the podium, please,

for

19 his presentation of the FASNY Golden Trumpet
20 Award.

21 MR. SCHOTT: Good morning.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

Award 23 MR. SCHOTT: The FASNY Golden Trumpet

24 is given to individuals who have demonstrated
25 exceptional support and assistance to the

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

32

award 1
2 volunteer fire service. Historically this
3 has been given to New York State Legislators,
4 government officials, and others who have
shown a 5
6 commitment to supporting the volunteer fire
service.

7 Past winners include US Representative
8 Sherwood Boehlert, New York State Assemblyman
9 Michael Bragman; Lawrence H. Cooke, New York
10 State Chief Judge Retired; internationally

11 recognized writer Kurt Vonnegut, US Senator
12 Alphonse D'Amato, New York State Senator Dale
13 Volker, FASNY Legislative Co-Chair Robert
"Bobby
14 Knight", Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther; and
last
15 year's winner, Senator Joseph Griffo. The
award
16 has been presented 19 times in the last 27
years.

17 This year the Firemen's Association of
the
18 State of New York is proud to announce that
Chief
19 Brian F. McQueen, a cancer advocate and
cancer
20 survivor, is the 2017 Golden Trumpet Award
21 winner.

22 At this time I would ask the
23 Sergeant-at-Arms to escort this year's Golden
24 Trumpet Award winner from Oneida County to
the
25 dais.

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

2 (Standing ovation.)

3 MR. SCHOTT: You may be seated.

4 Brian and his wife, Sarah, live in
5 Whitesboro and have a son Ryan and
6 daughter-in-law Erin. Brian has served as
Chief of the Whitesboro Volunteer Fire Company,
7 currently Vice President of the Central New
York Firemen's Association, past President of
Oneida County Firemen's Association, past President
of the Oneida County Fire Chiefs' Association,
12 currently serving on the education committee
of the National Fire Protection Agency, elected
to the National Volunteer Fire Council Executive
14 Board, and served as an Oneida County Fire
15 Coordinator.
16

17 Brian has a degree in elementary
education from Daemen College -- so he's partially a
18 Buffalo boy --
19

20 (Laughter.)

21 MR. SCHOTT: (Continuing) -- as well as
a
22 Certificate of Advanced Studies from the

State

23 University of Cortland. He has been a
teacher, a
24 principal, a Director of Information and
25 Technology in the Whitesboro School District.

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

34

1
2 Brian has been a very active member of
the
3 Firemen's Association of the State of New
York,
4 serving on various committees and serving as
a
5 director of FASNY for two plus terms.

6 Brian is the guy who goes above and
beyond.
7 He has won awards from the National Volunteer
8 Fire Council for Excellence in Fire
Prevention,
9 Firefighter of the Year in 1993 and 2015 --
Thank
10 God that us old guys come back; right, Brian
--

11 (Laughter.)

12 MR. SCHOTT: (Continuing) -- from the

13 Whitesboro Fire Department, 2003
Distinguished
14 Alumni Award at Daemen College, 2004 Knight's
of
15 Columbus Humanitarian Award for the Fire and
Life
16 Safety work across New York State, 2005
17 Distinguished New York State Principal of the
18 Year, National Distinguished Principal of the
19 Year, NYSCATE Technology Award for Leadership
in
20 New York State, Community Citizen Award
21 Whitestown American Legion Post, awarded with
the
22 Class of Living Legends from Oneida County
for
23 his work with cancer and education.
24 Brian has been instrumental in the
passage
25 of the long fought expanded cancer bill.
Brian

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

35

1
2 has been a tireless asset to the legislative

3 committee in researching cancer laws from
other
4 states, criss crossing the state attending
press
5 conferences, many trips to Albany, and local
6 legislative offices gaining support for this
7 bill. He has been the face of the volunteer
8 firefighters in New York State for our
expanded
9 cancer legislation. Every time we ran into a
10 stumbling block with the bill, he would
present
11 another solution or another way to get this
12 legislation. He stressed that we must get
13 something and build on it from there.

14 Brian is the cofounder of Believe 271
15 Foundation formed to assist volunteer
16 firefighters battling cancer. He created an
17 education program on firefighter cancer and
has
18 instructed over 4,000 firefighters from Maine
to
19 Texas. He has wrote and published a book,
"You
20 Gotta Believe", dedicated to those volunteer
21 firefighters battling cancer. He recently
wrote
22 and received a grant from Assemblyman Anthony
23 Brindisi to implement a second hood policy in

24 Oneida and Herkimer Counties.

25 Brian's resume is eight pages long -- I

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

36

1

2

wouldn't recommend asking him for his resume

--

3

(Laughter.)

4

shows

MR. SCHOTT: (Continuing) -- and it

5

that he is a true leader and an innovator in

6

anything he gets involved with in his life.

It

7

is with great pride that the Firemen's

8

Association of the State of New York presents

the

9

Golden Trumpet Award to our friend and fellow

10

firefighter, Brian F. McQueen.

11

(Standing ovation.)

12

congratulations.

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Chief,

13

MR. MCQUEEN: Thank you very much, Ken.

14

MR. PIENKOWSKI: I'm very honored this

15

morning to be able to present the 2017 Golden

the 16 Trumpet Award of the Firemen's Association of
17 State of New York presented to Chief Brian F.
it 18 McQueen. Chief, congratulations, and he said
19 all with one word, a legion. I said, he's a
20 legion alright. You're a legion. You're a
21 mentor. You're an educator, but more
22 importantly, you're a leader. Chief,
23 congratulations.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Vice President Klein,

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

37

1

2

please.

3

4

MR. KLEIN: Brian, it gives me great
pleasure to present you with one of our new
challenge coins --

5

6

(Applause.)

7

8

pleasure

MR. KLEIN: (Continuing) -- so I know
that's one of your pets, and it's been a

9 working with you all these great years.

10 MR. MCQUEEN: Thank you so very much.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. SCHOTT: And David Glenn, Vice

13 President from Oneida County, for the

14 presentation.

15 MR. GLENN: They asked me if I wanted
to
16 say a few words, and I said, sure,
absolutely.

17 As we sit here in a room with all these
amazing

18 people we sit there and we think, all this in
one

19 room, and there's always one person that
stands

20 out. This year I'm proud to say that it's
our

21 past Chief of Whitesboro Fire Department and
our

22 past President of Oneida County Volunteer
23 Firemen's Association. Representing them it
is

24 my honor to give this plaque to one of my
mentors

25 who I look up to every day, call him all the
time

1
2 with problems, situations, and as we say in
the
3 fire service, I'm responsible for the white
side
4 of his hair loss.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MR. GLENN: It is my honor to give this
7 award and plaque to past President, past
8 Whitesboro Chief Brian McQueen.

9 (Standing ovation.)

10 MR. MCQUEEN: Thank you. Thank you.

11 Please be seated, absolutely.

12 It's the first time you called me a
mentor.

13 Anybody want to be treasurer after that
14 last power point, let me know.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MR. MCQUEEN: Members of the dais,
Reverend
17 Lundy, Reverend Foster, how in the world do I
say
18 thank you for an award that really should be
19 broken up to 110 thousand pieces and given
out
20 across the state, because truly all of you

21 sitting here today and your brothers and
sisters
22 that you go back home to, those are the true
23 heroes today, and I think they deserve a
round of
24 applause for passing this cancer law.
25 (Applause.)

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

39

1
2 MR. MCQUEEN: President Pienkowski,
Klein,
3 Farrell, our Board, our legislative chair
Schott
4 and his committee; and Robin, let me tell you
5 something, your wife is always in our
prayers,
6 and I've got to tell you something, you've
got to
7 believe. C.O. Quinn, Secretary D'Alessandro,
my
8 brothers and sisters here today, thank you
for
9 this honor. Today is a great day for 110,000
10 volunteers of New York. I'm truly honored
and

11 humbled to receive this award for just doing
what
12 we do as volunteers every day helping
someone.
13 With the names of previous winners like
14 Congressman Sherwood Boehlert, Senator Joseph
15 Griffo, Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther,
Assemblyman
16 Bill Magee, and my brother volunteer
17 firefighters, who I thought of every day we
18 battled for this law; and when it got tough I
19 said, what would this guy say? What would he
do?
20 He's a true hero in my book, and that's Bobby
21 Knight. Bobby Knight exemplified what the
22 volunteer fire service is all about. We know
23 that. That's a fact. Bobby Knight could
have
24 written his own book.
25 Thank you to my brothers and sisters
from

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

2
Department,

my home department of Whitesboro Fire

3

our Oneida County and Central New York

4
us

4

Delegation, my buddy Derrick coming in with

5

today. How about our coach Billy Rosenhagen?

6

Billy, we never forget you.

7

(Applause.)

8
friends

8

MR. MCQUEEN: And to the dedicated

9
Incorporated,

9

from the Believe 271 Foundation,

10
the

10

you're amazing. You all kept me going when

11

going got tough.

12
who

12

Most importantly, my rock, that person

13

didn't allow me to quit when the pain and

14

suffering from my battle with cancer was

15
faced

15

unbearable. The constant struggles that we

16
a

16

fighting this law, the times it seemed it was

17
you. I

17

never ending task, my wife, Sarah. Thank

18

love you.

19

(Applause.)

20
21
words

20

MR. MCQUEEN: She was always my wisdom

21

person. Sarah always reminded me of the

22 Stuart Scott said as he accepted his ESPY
awards,
23 he said, you beat cancer by how you live, why
you
24 live, and in the manner in which you live.
FASNY
25 family, we know every day that you wake up
it's a

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

41

1
2 one day contract, so make it your best.
Every
3 day I'm reminded that our journey is not
about
4 me, it's about the people that we touch in
our
5 daily lives. Those who should be standing
here
6 receiving this amazing award today are people
7 like Chief Anthony Pagliaro, who's home today
8 recently diagnosed with a cancer for the
fourth
9 time; Chief Neil Sutherland who two months
ago
10 diagnosed with pancreatic cancer just began
his

Smalti 11 chemo treatments; Assistant Chief Wayne
most 12 (phonetic), beautiful two year old child,
and I 13 recently diagnosed with his second cancer;
numerous 14 can't forget my buddy, who I have had
15 phone calls and texts with, Chief Tommy
each 16 McDonough, who continues to fight the battle
17 and every day for our heroes. These heroes
18 continue to get up every day, put their feet
on 19 the ground, and fight this vicious disease.
also of 20 Let's not forget they're true heroes, and
story 21 Mrs. O'Bomsawin, who shared her husband's
22 on our previous video, past Chief of the
23 Wynantskill Fire Department, as he battled
cancer 24 until the end. These individuals told gut
25 wrenching stories of the impact on cancer,
not

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

1
2 only on them, but on their families. They
are
3 still the true heroes, but we must not stop
and
4 rest, we must continue to educate our
5 firefighters of the increased dangers of
cancer
6 in the fire service. We can recruit all the
7 firefighters that we want, but it is our job
to
8 retain a healthy firefighter, one who will
9 respond to an incident when a person is
having
10 the worst day of their life. So let me ask
you,
11 where have you seen the volunteer fire
service of
12 New York state every firematic organization
that
13 represents our volunteers band together for
one
14 cause? Each one of you are to be thanked and
15 commended for your efforts, because if it
wasn't
16 for you, the work of our presidents, our
Board,
17 our CAO, our secretary, our FASNY family, the
18 State Chiefs, the fire districts, our fire
19 coordinators, Paul Zuber and his group, the
fire

20 chaplains, fire police, Tony Cruz and the
21 Firefighter Cancer Support Network, Rob
Leonard,
22 cancer once again would be our number one
23 priority in 2018. You banded together. We
won
24 the battle. We will continue to do that. So
25 when it's time to do the right thing for your

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

43

1
2 brothers and sisters that you walk into the
fire
3 with, stay strong, walk hand in hand into
battle,
4 and win the fight for what's right. Never,
5 never, never, give up.

6 So in closing let me say this, the
words of
7 retired Buffalo Bills quarterback and cancer
8 survivor Jim Kelly, are words that we all can
9 live by. Jim said to a group of about 500
high
10 school athletes, parents, and coaches and
guests

11 in Utica, New York, this past June, he said,
make
12 a difference today for someone who is
fighting
13 for their tomorrow. Can you imagine if all
of
14 here today and those in the world around
would
15 live by those words? God what a great world
we
16 would live in.

17 Thank you. God bless. You all mean
the
18 world to Sarah and myself. I love you all.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Brian.

21 Ladies and gentlemen, as you heard this
22 morning, Brian has been a true champion and
23 advocate and educator in the prevention of
cancer
24 in the fire service, not only for New York
state,
25 but nationwide. His passion supporting the

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

1
2 volunteer firefighters when it comes to
cancer in 3 the fire service has been second to none.
4 Chief, congratulations, and thank you
for 5 everything you have done in the attempt to
6 educate the volunteer fire service across our
7 nation.
8 I again would like to call upon FASNY
9 Legislative Chairman Robin Schott to the
podium 10 for the presentation of the annual
legislative 11 program this morning. Robin, again, on
behalf of 12 the officers and the presidents of FASNY,
thank 13 you and your committee and sectional
presidents 14 for everything you have done in the past
couple 15 of days.
16 MR. SCHOTT: Good morning again.
17 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.
18 MR. SCHOTT: Welcome to the 84th Annual
for 19 FASNY Legislative Conference, and thank you
concerning 20 your interest in legislative matters

21 the fire service.

22 I would like to introduce my committee:

23 I am Robin Schott, Chairman, from
24 Williamsville; Tom McDonough is my co-
Chairman
25 from Port Washington; Tom Arsenault from
Tupper

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

45

1
2 Lake; Doug Van Etten from Cortland; Mike
Karashay
3 from Saugerties; Bill Harris is recuperating
in
4 the hospital from some heart surgery. Our
5 thoughts and prayers are with Bill today.
6 William Wieck from Greenlawn; Dave Violas
from
7 Honeoye; Edward Tase, Jr., is from Lockport,
he
8 is our Board Liaison; Paul Zuber from ASA is
in
9 Leyden this weekend, but we do have Andrew
10 Marocco from ASA; we have Daniel Cain in the
11 front row here; and we have a new addition
from

12 ASA, Gerald Scaldo (phonetic).
13 ASA has been with us for five years
now,
14 and they talked with the Board and ASA, and
we
15 decided to go the smaller agenda. I've been
on
16 the legislative committee for 15 years. I
think
17 we can all remember when we had 20 or 30
items on
18 the legislation program. So what we've
decided
19 is we would just go with a rifle approach
instead
20 of the shotgun approach. We wanted to make a
21 pink of piece that we could hand to the
22 legislators, one piece of paper that would
have 8
23 to 10 items on it. The success that we have
had
24 since this; in 2013, we passed the exemption
for
25 the ambulance registration fee. We have a
ban on

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

1
2 novelty lighters, increase in the revolving
loan
3 limits. In 2014, we had truss construction
4 notification. We had out of jurisdictional
VFBL
5 coverage, the sex offender prohibition, the
6 volunteer job protection bill during the
state of
7 emergency, and the LOSAP tax exemption. In
2015,
8 we had the 10 year tamper proof smoke
detectors,
9 exempting overweight fire trucks from New
York
10 State Vehicle and Traffic law, seatbelt
11 requirement for volunteer firefighters,
expanded
12 the VFBL heart and lung extenders. In 2016,
we
13 increased the VFBL benefits for permanent
total
14 disability, the move over law for
firefighters
15 and ambulance workers; and in 2017, finally
got
16 the cap coverage for cancer benefits. So you
can
17 see with this shorter and more concise
program,
18 it is working, and we are getting laws passed
for

19
20
sectional
21
and
22
help
23
24
25
questions,

the volunteer firefighters.

I would also like to thank the
chairman for running the sectional caucuses
coming in for a couple of extra meetings to
shape the program as it appears today.

Each of the items will be read, the
Presidents will ask for motions and

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

47

1
2
body.
3
that
4
in
5
one
6
We
7
the

and then the bills will be ratified by the
If you do have a question or comment, we ask
you approach the mic and state your comment
three minutes or less. You will be allowed
rebuttal statement of two minutes if needed.
would ask for a motion if you would approach

8 microphone and make your motions from the
9 microphones.

number 10 The first item on the score card is
11 one, upholstered furniture and fire safety
sale 12 standards. Establishes a prohibition on the
13 and distribution of new upholstered furniture
14 containing certain flame-retardant chemicals.

15 MR. KLEIN: You heard the reading of
16 proposal number one.

Hudson 17 MR. TOTTEN: President Tom Totten,
18 Valley, moves the motion.

a 19 MR. KLEIN: I have a motion. Is there
20 second?

21 MR. SCHMIDT: David Schmidt, Western,
22 seconds.

a 23 MR. KLEIN: Okay. I have a motion and
24 second. Anything on a question?

25 (No response.)

1

2

MR. KLEIN: All those in favor?

3

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

4

MR. KLEIN: Anybody opposed?

5

(No response.)

6

MR. KLEIN: Number one passes.

7

MR. SCHOTT: Number two. Amend the

Penal

8

Code to add endangering the welfare of a fire

and

9

emergency personnel. Make it a crime to

10

illegally circumvent uniform code by making

11

illegal conversions a charge of endangering

the

12

welfare of fire and emergency personnel.

13

Landlords make conversions so they can make

more

14

off the properties without obtaining proper

15

permits. The conversions made may not have

16

proper egress and could create an extremely

17

dangerous situation for firefighters.

18

MR. KLEIN: You've heard proposal

number

19

two.

20

MR. O'BRIEN: Paul O'Brien, past

President

21

of Hudson Valley, makes a motion to accept

this

22 bill.
23 MR. KLEIN: We have a motion to accept.
24 MR. BIERDS: Thomas Bierds, past
Director
25 of Hudson Valley, seconds it.

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

49

1
2 MR. KLEIN: We have a motion and a
second.
3 Anything on discussion?
4 (No response.)
5 MR. KLEIN: All in favor?
6 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.
7 MR. KLEIN: Number two passes.
8 MR. SCHOTT: Number three. VFBL/VAWBL
9 Increase. Increases VFBL/VAWBL partial
permanent
10 disability benefit level from \$400.00 to
\$650.00
11 per week.
12 MR. KLEIN: You've heard number three.
13 MR. BARRETT: Mr. Chairman, Harry
Barrett,

14 past President of Hudson Valley, moves the
15 motion.

16 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Harry.

17 Anybody wish to second it?

18 MR. ROTHDIENER: Tom Rothdiener, past
19 President of Central, seconds it.

20 MR. KLEIN: Motion is made and
seconded.

21 Is there anything on discussion?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. KLEIN: All in favor?

24 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

25 MR. KLEIN: Number three passes.

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

50

1

2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: My turn. Good
morning.

3

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

4

Fair UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Number four. The

5

Play Ambulance Cost Recovery for Fire

6

Departments. Allows fire departments to bill

for

7 ambulance services to even the playing field
with

8 all other ambulance providers across the
state.

9 MR. KLEIN: You heard number four.

10 MR. SWEET: David Sweet, President,
11 Northern Central, moves the adoption of item
12 number four.

13 MR. KLEIN: I have a motion.

14 MR. CINCOTTA: Peter Cincotta, Director
of
15 Southern, seconds it.

16 MR. KLEIN: We have a motion and a
second
17 to adopt number four.

18 Anything on discussion?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. KLEIN: All in favor?

21 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

22 MR. KLEIN: Anybody opposed?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. KLEIN: My work here is done.

25 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Number five.
Requires

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

days

First

aye.

prompt payment of VFBL death benefit. This proposal establishes the payment of certain volunteer firefighter and volunteer ambulance worker death benefits shall be within ninety days of the filing of application to receive such death benefit.

MR. FARRELL: You heard proposal number five.

MR. BENGEL: Fred Bengel (phonetic), Vice President of Hudson Valley, moves the motion.

MR. FARRELL: Do I have a second?

MR. SULLO: Anthony Sullo, Southern New York, First Vice President, seconds it.

MR. FARRELL: Any discussion?

(No response.)

MR. FARRELL: All those in favor say

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. FARRELL: Opposed?

(No response.)

22 MR. FARRELL: So carried.

tax 23 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Number six. Sales
24 exemption for home life safety products.
25 Proposed exemption of sales tax on smoke

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

52

1
2 detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire
3 extinguishers as an incentive for purchasing
4 these household items.

5 MR. FARRELL: You have heard proposal
6 number six.

past 7 MR. KONSIV: John Konsiv (phonetic),
8 President, Hudson Valley, moves for the
passage 9 of this proposal.

10 MR. FARRELL: Do I have a second?

11 MR. SULLO: Anthony Sullo, Southern New
12 York, First Vice President, seconds it.

13 MR. FARRELL: Any questions on the
motion?

14 (No response.)
15 MR. FARRELL: All those in favor say
aye.
16 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.
17 MR. FARRELL: Opposed?
18 (No response.)
19 MR. FARRELL: So carried.
20 MR. SCHOTT: Under budget items.
Number
21 one, increase the tax credit. Provide an
22 increase to volunteer firefighters, volunteer
23 ambulance workers, and volunteer emergency
24 medical personnel state tax credit from
\$200.00
25 to \$400.00 per year.

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

53

1
2 MR. FARRELL: You have heard budget
number
3 one; do I have a motion?
4 MR. TASE: Ed Tase, Niagara County,
moves
5 to adopt.

6 MR. FARRELL: Do I have a second?
7 MR. MONTROSE: John Montrose, Oneida
8 County, seconds it.
9 MR. FARRELL: Any questions?
10 (No response.)
11 MR. FARRELL: All those in favor say
aye.
12 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.
13 MR. FARRELL: Any opposed?
14 (No response.)
15 MR. FARRELL: So carried.
16 MR. SCHOTT: Number two is the
reoccurring
17 New York State budget monitoring to monitor
18 2018/2019 budget negotiations to ensure
19 adequate/consistent funding allocations are
met
20 for the 9-1-1 coordination purposes,
emergency
21 services low interest revolving loans,
training
22 funding under OFPC, and funding for training
23 books.
24 MR. FARRELL: You've heard item number
two;
25 do I have a motion?

54

1

so

2

MR. SCHMIDT: David Schmidt, Western,

3

moves.

4

MR. FARRELL: Do I have a second?

5

MR. SKINNER: Charles Skinner, past

6

President of Central, seconds it.

7

MR. FARRELL: Thank you.

8

Any questions on the motion?

9

(No response.)

aye.

10

MR. FARRELL: All those in favor say

11

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

12

MR. FARRELL: Opposed?

13

(No response.)

14

MR. FARRELL: So carried.

15

Thank you.

other

16

MR. SCHOTT: FASNY will meet with the

organizations

17

fire service organizations and EMS

issues

18

the first weekend in December to further

the

19

of united concern. The FASNY Board will make

20 final agenda in late December or early
January in
21 time for the 2018 outreach program, Roll Out.
22 FASNY will again offer the legislative
outreach
23 program starting in January and running
through
24 May. The legislative committee and
25 representatives from ASA's office will meet
with

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

55

1
2 the sectionals and explain the new 2018 FASNY
3 Legislative agenda with sectional members and
4 their state representatives. Next year's
5 legislative conference will be at the Desmond
6 Hotel, November 3rd and the 4th. FASNY
7 encourages all of its members to join the
FASNY
8 engage program relief to start receiving
email
9 alerts and calls to action on the legislative
10 issues.

11 Again, you can see, we do contact our
12 members. I'd like to say, over 6,000
responses
13 for the cancer bill. I wish we could get
that on
14 every bill that we have on our score card,
but
15 normally we average 300 or 400 responses. So
it
16 is important that we all use the engage
system
17 that you will get notified. Doug will show
each
18 of you how easy it is to join. You go to the
19 FASNY website, click on legislation, go to
the
20 engage site. As long as you can type your
name
21 and address, it probably takes you about two
22 minutes to get your name into the engage
program,
23 and you will receive the alerts from them.
24 There's prepared letters on there. Basically
all
25 you have to do is sign your name again, and
if

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

1
2 you do send numerous ones, you don't even
have to
3 sign your name again. Your name is already
saved
4 into the program. So you can send out the
5 messages to your legislators, to the
governor,
6 whoever we're sending it to, in two minutes
or
7 less. So it's not going to take up a lot of
your
8 time. Also the score card is on the website.
9 Again, I just thank the Board and FASNY
for
10 the wonderful job that they do on the
website. I
11 think it's the finest website in the country,
12 fire service website in the country, that we
13 have.
14 I'd like to remind everyone that
Tuesday is
15 Election Day, and please exercise your right
to
16 vote. Please wear your "I'm a Firefighter"
17 button and be proud of it. Maybe you guys
can
18 fill a truck up and run it down to the
polling
19 places just to remind those people that

20 firefighters do vote.

21 The FASNY website will be updated every
22 couple of weeks, and as new law items appear,
it
23 will be out on the board on the items on the
24 agenda. They will be updated and alerts and
25 action calls will be sent out.

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386

57

1
2 The committee and myself thank you
again
3 for attending the conference this year and
wish
4 you a safe ride home today. Be safe out
there.

5 Thank you again. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Again, thank you Robin
and
8 your committee and all of you for
participating
9 in this important process in selecting the
FASNY
10 legislative items for the coming year.

here 11 A couple of more items to take care of

12 this morning.

come 13 I would ask that Gerry Owenburg please

14 up to the podium for the purpose of a

15 presentation.

Secretary 16 As you all know in the room, past

wanted 17 Mike Whelan we lost to cancer, and FASNY

18 to do something in remembrance of Secretary

19 Whelan. So three years ago at the annual

20 convention they started a walk, the Annual

the 21 Michael D. Whelan Walk in the Park, and all

donated 22 proceeds from that walk was decided to be

So 23 to the Firefighter's Cancer Support Network.

24 on behalf of the FASNY directors, trustees,

25 committee members, FASNY family, and all the

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

2 participants for the third annual Michael D.
3 Whelan Walk in the Park, I would like to
present
4 this donation of \$1,337.11 to you Gerry,
State
5 Director of the Firefighter's Cancer Support
6 Network. The proceeds from the Annual
Michael D.
7 Whelan Walk in the Park will continue to
support
8 the Firefighter Cancer Support Network in
honor
9 of our association secretary, Michael Whelan.
10 Gerry, thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Next I would like to
13 welcome and ask him to please come to the
podium,
14 Shawn Brimhall from the National Fallen
15 Firefighter's Foundation and FASNY past
President
16 James Burns for a presentation, please.

17 It is my privilege to present donations
18 from the 4th Annual FASNY golf tournament to
the
19 National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation and
the
20 New York State Fallen Firefighter's Memorial
21 committee in the amount of \$4,341.15 each.

22 Before I make the presentation, I would
23 like to thank the golf committee chaired by
our
24 own past Director Brian McQueen and his
committee
25 for your efforts this past year at the golf

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

59

1
2 tournament and for those that golfed and
3 supported it for this very worthy cause.

4 Shawn, it's a great honor for the
5 golfers --

6 MR. BRIMHALL: Thank you, Ken.

7 MR. PIENKOWSKI: (Continuing) -- to
present
8 this check to the National Fallen
Firefighter's
9 Foundation.

10 MR. BRIMHALL: Thank you all. Everyone
11 that participated, thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. BURNS: Top of the morning to you.

I

14 personally first have to apologize for not
being
15 able to help, but Kathy was ill. As far as
16 Northern Pennsylvania, I went home. I want
to
17 thank you for this, my good friend, Gunnar,
who
18 was here and was chairman of this memorial
19 committee from day one from 1998. He
bequeathed
20 it to me here recently. It was a secret
vote, I
21 think. I was there, I don't know what
happened.

22 (Laughter.)

23 MR. BURNS: But anyway, ladies and
24 gentlemen, thank you all that participated in
the
25 golf outing or donated for the golf outing.
I

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

60

1
2 need to tell you that there's an urgent need
for
3 this foundation to raise some additional
funds.

4 Our brothers in the city of New York post
9/11
5 cancer victims this year we put 112 names.
118
6 total, 112 of them were post 9/11 cancer
victims
7 from the World Trade Center. There is
already 60
8 names of OFPC to be added next near, plus any
9 other line of duties during the year, and
there
10 may be more. It's almost daily I read. I
belong
11 to the site in New York, and I read almost
daily
12 with people stricken with this disease and
13 succumbing to this disease. So be kind, be
14 generous to this foundation. We are looking
to
15 reorganize it and get some more participants
on
16 the committee to help. John Tarper
(phonetic)
17 and I at this point in time make it go.
18 Thank you all very much.
19 (Applause.)
20 MR. BRIMHALL: Jim, I don't know if you
saw
21 on the news, but that chili cook off --
22 MR. BURNS: Oh, good.

23 MR. BRIMHALL: So you should see that
24 coming soon for that too.

25 On behalf of the Fallen Firefighter's

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

61

1
2 Foundation, thank you very much for this
3 donation. There's two things the Fallen
4 Firefighters, the main things that they do.
One
5 is obviously to honor the fallen
firefighter's
6 and support their families and fire
departments
7 and provide them the resources they need to
8 continue on with their lives. The other
thing is
9 the everybody goes home side, which is an
equal
10 part of what I do as the OFPC representative
to
11 fallen firefighters and is to kind of put
them
12 out of business. So unfortunately we had
another
13 line of duty death of a volunteer firefighter

at

14 haven't

15 out

16 duty

17 Cardiac

18 of

19 that we

20 on.

21

22 line

23 catch

24

25

St. Lawrence County yesterday that you
heard of. That information could be going
today. And it's a cardiac related line of
death, and we'll be monitoring deaths.
related deaths still account for 50 percent
line of duty deaths, and that's something
need to do better, better medical monitoring
See a lot of changes in the NPA standard for
medical monitoring to try to prevent these
of duty deaths from occurring, trying to
them with some different testing, stuff that
could be done so we lessen the names that are

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

62

1

2

going on the wall each and every year.

3 Again, thank you on behalf of the
4 foundation. Thank you very much for this
5 donation. It's going to go to a good cause.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you. That
concludes
9 our program this morning. Good job,
committee.

10 At this time I would like to welcome
11 Reverend Barrie Lyn Foster, part of the FASNY
12 Chaplain's committee, for the closing of the
84th
13 Annual Legislative Conference with a
14 presentation.

15 (Whereupon, Benediction by Reverend
16 Foster.)

17 MR. PIENKOWSKI: Thank you, Reverend
18 Foster.

19 The FASNY store is open if anyone wants
to
20 get one of those new challenge coins that
just
21 came out. They have them in the store.

22 Thank you for being here. Please
travel
23 safely, and remember, everybody goes home.
Thank
24 you.

25
concluded.)

(Whereupon, the conference was

Jamie J. Woodard - (631) 345-2386

63

1

2

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

3

4

STATE OF NEW YORK)

5

) SS.:

6

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

7

8

I, JAMIE J. WOODARD, a Court Reporter

and

9

Notary Public, for and within the State of

New

10

York, do hereby certify:

11

THAT the above and foregoing contains a

12

true and correct transcription of the

proceedings

13

held on November 5, 2017 at the Firemen's

14

Association of the State of New York Annual

15

Legislative Conference, Albany, New York, and

16

were reported by me.

to
by
in
my

17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
hand this 20th day of April, 2018.

JAMIE J. WOODARD

Jamie J. Woodard – (631) 345-2386