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2 OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 150TH ANNUAL  
3 MEETING OF THE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD FROM THE 10TH DAY OF  
5 AUGUST THROUGH THE 13TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2022, AT  
6 TARRYTOWN HOUSE ESTATE, 49 EAST SUNNYSIDE LANE,  
7 TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK.

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11 August 11, 2022  
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14 **B E F O R E:** JOHN P. FARRELL, JR., President  
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MR. FARRELL: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. FARRELL: Welcome to the business session of the 150th Annual Meeting of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

The exits are located to your right and left. If there is an emergency at any point during this session, it will be announced from the dais and instructions will be given. Please exit the ballroom in an orderly fashion.

If you are going to make a motion or a second, please step to the microphone and clearly state your name and your affiliation.

I ask that you please silence your cellphones and pagers now.

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Juan Batta, then remain standing for the invocation by Reverend Barrie-Lyn Foster.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all led by Sergeant-at-Arms Juan Batta.)

(Whereupon, opening prayer by Reverend

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Barrie-Lyn Foster.)

MR. FARRELL: The first thing on my agenda this morning with us this morning I would like to recognize Ed Cook, past attorney. I believe he is in the room.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: First I would like to now ask President Diana Balling to come to the podium to say a few words.

MS. BALLING: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MS. BALLING: First thing, thank you for allowing me to address the membership here. Congratulations to FASNY members on their 150th anniversary.

Great leadership has brought you this far, with a huge number of dedicated first responders across the state. We thank you. LAFASNY is always here for you for anything that you ever need. When it comes to supporting legislation, we're here to do your needs, whatever you need us to do, whether it be sending in letters, we're here.

As far as your 150th, John, would you

1  
2 please stand up. We pay tribute to the  
3 Firefighters Association of the State of New York  
4 in celebration of their 150th anniversary of  
5 compassion, dedicated commitment, and caring for  
6 the volunteer men and women of the fire service  
7 in the State of New York. With heartfelt thanks  
8 and sincere appreciation, presented to you by the  
9 Ladies' Auxiliary of the Firefighters Association  
10 of the State of New York, August 11, 2022.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. FARRELL: Thank you. Thank you very  
13 much for the presentation. Our Board of  
14 Directors greatly appreciates this.

15 MS. BALLING: You're very welcome. It's  
16 the least we can do. And staying on that note --  
17 Don't go anywhere.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. FARRELL: I guess she's in charge.

20 (Laughter.)

21 MS. BALLING: On behalf of LAFASNY, I'd  
22 like to present a check to you in the amount of  
23 \$500.00 for the Jerry Buckenmeyer Scholarship  
24 Fund. Additionally, LAFASNY has donated two  
25 baskets, so that would be a total of \$600.00.

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MR. FARRELL: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. BALLING: These last two years it's been a pleasure working with you and your Vice Presidents. It's been a thrill, but hard, as you know. You did COVID. I did COVID. My President, person before me, Jean Christensen, she went in on a regular year. She came out of COVID. I came in on COVID and going out on a regular year. So it's been tough for those two years in the middle, but we made it; and the key word that I've always said from the beginning was flexibility, and we have been flexible.

MR. FARRELL: Yes, absolutely.

MS. BALLING: We appreciate FASNY and LAFASNY working together. It has only increased us, and thank you.

MR. FARRELL: It's a team.

MS. BALLING: Absolutely. And I would like to introduce my First Vice President Kathleen Heighton.

MS. HEIGHTON: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MS. HEIGHTON: I would like to wish you a

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successful on your 150th. It's been enjoyable.

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A lot of stairs. I didn't know I was going to

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get my exercise, but it hasn't slowed me down

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any.

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John, it's been a pleasure. Ed, we're

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going to do it together.

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MR. TASE: Ut oh.

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(Laughter.)

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MS. HEIGHTON: We will work on FASNY and

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LAFASNY together; and Jean will continue to work,

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and John, thank you. You'll get your rest. So

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enjoy the rest of your convention, and we will

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see you on the boat in Long Island.

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Thank you.

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MS. BALLING: I also have with me my Second

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Vice President Toni Casey.

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MS. CASEY: I always tell everybody, if you

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know me, good things come in small packages.

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(Laughter.)

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MS. CASEY: It's my pleasure this morning

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to come and to greet you all and see all the

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smiling faces out there. Kathleen does a good

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job --

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(Laughter.)

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MS. CASEY: So I want to present John with our book and these are monogrammed bags for you; and I also have for your Presidents.

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MR. TASE: Thank you very much.

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MS. CASEY: Thank you. I look forward to all that we're doing together.

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MR. TASE: Thank you very, very much. Looking forward to working with you.

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MS. CASEY: I want to present our journal to you, because you are a member --

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MR. KLEIN: Holy mackerel.

13

(Laughter.)

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MS. CASEY: That was presented at the home between FASNY and LAFASNY. It was a joint effort between him and Jean Christensen.

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MR. KLEIN: Thank you.

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MS. CASEY: And they did an excellent job.

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MR. KLEIN: Jean did it all. I was just taking the credit.

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(Laughter.)

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MR. KLEIN: You've got my picture on the front. I can't believe how much the reward has gone up.

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(Laughter.)

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MS. CASEY: Have a wonderful convention,  
and we'll be seeing you around.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Ladies, the Board of  
Directors certainly appreciates all the hard work  
and dedication. You girls are the best.

Thank you.

MS. BALLING: Thank you.

MR. FARRELL: Now I would like to take this  
opportunity to ask that Bill Streicher, the  
President of the New York State Fire  
Coordinators' Association, come up to the dais  
for a presentation to FASNY.

MR. STREICHER: Good morning, everyone.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. STREICHER: It's a pleasure to be here  
today representing the New York State Fire  
Coordinators' Association and to comment on the  
excellent job that FASNY has done over the 150  
years providing support to the fire service  
across New York state. It's also been a pleasure  
working with all the associations over the past 8  
to 10 years we've come together, worked together  
on initiatives that were very important to the

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fire service.

So again, on behalf of the Fire Coordinators', I have a certificate of recognition -- I'm sorry -- certificate of recognition to FASNY for 150 years of service to the state of New York and the firefighters of New York State.

Again, thank you very much, gentlemen, for your hard work.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Bill, I'd just like to say thank you very much from the association, and I truly appreciate, truly appreciate the hard work and dedication between FASNY and the Fire Coordinators and the other state organizations that we have increased coming together, working on common goals for our boots on the ground firefighters.

Thank you again.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: At this time, I would also like to call upon Steve Hirsh of the National Volunteer Fire Council to come to the podium for some remarks.

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MR. HIRSH: Well President Farrell, when I saw him out in the hallway earlier said that I could say two words, and the only two I could really think of was thank you. Thank you to FASNY for all, all the hospitality. This continues to amaze me, but I am a lawyer by trade, so that would take about a 45 page brief probably to say thank you.

I don't know, Vice President Tase over here, we're not going to do it together --

(Laughter.)

MR. HIRSH: And the kiss is off limits.

(Laughter.)

MR. HIRSH: Congratulations to FASNY on 150 great years of service to the firefighters of this wonderful state; and I can tell you that Ken Pienkowski and Brian McQueen are your directors from New York, and they just do a tremendous job representing the firefighters of this state. You know, 150 years ago I don't know that the firefighters of this state would realize the great organization that FASNY would become. From the home on the Hudson to the fire museum to the Recruit New York campaign and the FASNY Credit

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2 Union, just lots of good things that happen with  
3 FASNY. The support of FASNY is making things  
4 happen, is helping keep our firefighters heart  
5 healthy in partnership with the NVFC. It's  
6 helping us to teach firefighters about cancer and  
7 the concerns that we have about cancer in the  
8 fire service and new ways to fight fire in the  
9 new firefighting environment and keeping our  
10 firefighters mentally healthy, which is just as  
11 important as their physical health.

12 I thought on the plane here about FASNY  
13 beginning with an F and ending in a Y. Family is  
14 also beginning in an F and ending in a Y; and  
15 FASNY knows exactly what family is all about, how  
16 important it is the mission that we have. My  
17 wife Anita travels with me frequently and takes a  
18 lot of pictures, and I appreciate the fact that  
19 she and all the other wives and kids and husbands  
20 out there support us as firefighters in our  
21 mission.

22 So thank you to FASNY for what you do to  
23 keep the firefighters safe in this state and  
24 frankly, around the nation, because what you do  
25 spreads throughout this country.

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So congratulations to you on a 150 years of strength in the fire service, and thank you to each one of you for what you do in the communities across this great state.

And I would just conclude with saying God bless each of you, and God bless the fire service and this great nation.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Next we're going to move forward. We will now take the address on the first order of business and that will be the chairman of the bylaw committee, Director Mike Caron, will deliver a report to the membership.

MR. CARON: Good morning, everyone.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. CARON: So this year it was brought to the bylaws committee a few things that they would like maybe to address, and we'll start off with the very first one. This first group of bylaw changes is to hopefully clarify the membership categories of the association, and they are regular member, associate member, and organizational member. So from my discussions yesterday with some of the different groups, I

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guess there are some questions. So I would like have you bring up the question at this point and our resources here, attorney Tim Hannigan and our Secretary John D'Allesandro, will be prepared to address those as we move forward.

So do we have any questions at this time?

Yes, Mike.

MR. DE VITTORIO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, the question goes to that second one that I pointed out, that second section I pointed out further into the bylaws, where it only states about full company membership.

MR. CARON: 6.2. Let me just read it for the rest of the audience, Mike. So in 6.2, we've crossed out organizational member and put it at full company members, and it basically states, "full company members must designate one delegate and one alternative delegate to represent such member. The alternate delegate shall only be entitled to act in the absence of a delegate. Delegates and alternate delegates must be volunteer or exempt firefighters and must be a member of the organizational member for which they served as delegates." Okay, so everybody

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knows what it states. Everything was put on the FASNY website, FASNY.com, for anybody to read and look at those changes. So go ahead with your question.

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MR. DE VITTORIO: The question I have is it should not say full company members. It should be all organizations.

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MR. CARON: Should remain --

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MR. DE VITTORIO: The rest of the bylaw change is fine, but it should say all organization members are entitled to a delegate and alternate, not just full company members. The way that could be read and interpreted, and maybe not today or tomorrow, because you sat here and wrote it, but you know 10 years from now somebody is going to be in there interpreting the bylaws. Give a us problem? No, no, got to be a full company member and delegates, so you're disqualified if you're not. So that should be stricken.

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MR. CARON: Attorney Hannigan, would you like to address that?

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MR. HANNIGAN: Yes. I got my box up here. So what Director Caron said, he said we're

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2 changing the categories for regular, associate,  
3 and organizations. So there are organizations  
4 now, all the sectional organizations, fire  
5 departments, they were previously categorized as  
6 organizational. They now fall under the umbrella  
7 of regular members, because for purposes of  
8 voting and participation of FASNY, they're  
9 treated just like individual firefighter members.  
10 So regular members now are individual  
11 firefighter, and elected or appointed officials'  
12 interest represent fire and EMS. A duly  
13 organized fire department, volunteer fire  
14 company, EMS agency, or any sectional  
15 organization -- and we list all the sectional  
16 organizations that presently exist in New York --  
17 and any volunteer firefighters' association,  
18 benevolent association, or exempt or veteran  
19 volunteer firefighters' association. So all  
20 those types of groups are now regular members.  
21 That's under section 2.1.3. I read all that  
22 stuff as a precursor, because it's important  
23 because of what new section 2.4 says. So full  
24 company memberships, or any entity covered under  
25 section 2.1.3 of this article, which again is

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2 individuals, appointed officials who represent  
3 the interest of volunteer fire and EMS, a fire  
4 department, a fire company, a sectional  
5 organization, or a benevolent association, all  
6 those entities are entitled to designate one  
7 delegate and one alternate delegate to represent  
8 such member at a duly organized meeting of the  
9 association membership, which is the convention.  
10 The alternate shall only be entitled to act in  
11 the absence of the delegate. That same  
12 language -- So when you read whether it's the  
13 laws in the state of New York, which are all over  
14 the place, or our bylaws, which are a lot  
15 tighter, but it's an ongoing thing, you have to  
16 read them in totality. So I think your concern  
17 is addressed by that section that states that  
18 every regular member is entitled to one vote; and  
19 then for entities, for regular members that  
20 aren't an actual person, like a fire company, a  
21 fire department, their organizations, they have  
22 to appoint a delegate or alternate, but in my see  
23 the only way it can be read is --

24 MR. DE VITTORIO: Then it makes the first  
25 change I brought up redundant, you don't need it

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2 then, because I'm telling you, in 10 years  
3 someone will turn around and say you have to be a  
4 full company membership, because of that section  
5 of the bylaws. I believe either it should be  
6 changed or it should be stricken from the  
7 changes; and in good conscious, I can't vote for  
8 that.

9 MR. HANNIGAN: I think the bylaws are quite  
10 clear that every regular member gets either a  
11 vote or an individual person or --

12 MR. DE VITTORIO: But it states -- You have  
13 it stating further on that you have to be a full  
14 company member or about full company members  
15 having -- It doesn't say anything in that section  
16 about the other organizations.

17 MR. HANNIGAN: No, so that later section  
18 refers -- specifies that a full company member  
19 must designate one delegate, one alternate  
20 delegate. It doesn't erase at all the previous  
21 authority granted in the bylaws that says  
22 organizations --

23 MR. DE VITTORIO: That's your  
24 interpretation today. In 10 years, you may no  
25 longer be our attorney, John will no longer be

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our secretary, somebody else will be standing here saying, no, because in the bylaws it also says this, so only full company members are entitled to it.

MR. HANNIGAN: Respectfully, Mike, I don't think it did --

MR. DE VITTORIO: This goes back to the argument two years ago about interpretations of the bylaws about one person one vote; and all of a sudden it wasn't one person one vote. It's got to be very clear in there.

MR. HANNIGAN: So is the question one person one vote or --

MR. DE VITTORIO: No, no, it goes back to individuals having different interpretations of the bylaws. It's got to be black and white.

MR. HANNIGAN: But the issue you're concerned about here is that do regular members, other than full company members, have the opportunity to appoint a delegate, right? That's the question?

MR. DE VITTORIO: I realize what it says in the first change. The second change only addresses full company. Why are they separated

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out?

MR. HANNIGAN: So right above the section that you identify it says, voting and action by the membership is the section six. You're talking about 6.2. 6.1, right before it, says, "Generally. Each regular member -- which they're all the ones I listed before -- in good standing shall have one vote." I actually think it's abundantly clear.

MR. DE VITTORIO: Then that second section, the one following that 6.2, should be stricken from the changes we're making today.

MR. HANNIGAN: All this does is specify that for full company they have to have one delegate and one alternate to represent.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: They have to choose a delegate and alternate.

MR. HANNIGAN: Yes.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: That's all it says.

MR. DE VITTORIO: Then it should be in there all organizations have to choose a delegate and alternate.

MR. HANNIGAN: That's already -- It's already --

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MR. DE VITTORIO: Then you're already covering full company memberships under that other section so. Again, it should be stricken.

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MR. HANNIGAN: As I said, if there's any of the confusion, every regular member of the organization of FASNY has one vote. If you are not a human being, if you're a fire company or a fire department, you pick a person, a human being, to cast your vote; and that is unequivocally the rule.

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MR. AMMIRATI: I have a question.

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MR. HANNIGAN: Yes.

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MR. AMMIRATI: Vinny Ammirati from Suffolk County. If a person is a member, a full member, and he's also a delegate, will he have two votes, one for the company and one for himself?

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MR. HANNIGAN: Yes.

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Yes.

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MR. AMMIRATI: Because I was both, and I had one vote.

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MR. HANNIGAN: Yes, and that's because your vote as a delegate is derived from the membership of the organization that for which --

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MR. AMMIRATI: So from now on, if this

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passes, if you're a delegate you'll have the

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delegate vote for whatever organization you

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represent?

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: No. That's already been

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decided.

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MR. CARON: When we made the change last

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year, that's what it was changed to.

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MR. AMMIRATI: So just one vote?

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: No.

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MR. CARON: No, the member gets one vote;

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and then your organization can make you the

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delegate.

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MR. AMMIRATI: Because I'm actually like a

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delegate of three different organizations, but I

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only get one vote.

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MR. CARON: You can't be.

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: You can't be.

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MR. TASE: One ballot per organization

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you're entitled --

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: One at a time. One at a

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time.

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MR. PIENKOWSKI: One person speak, please.

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: As of last year, you can

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only be the delegate for one organization, and

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you must be a member of that organization. That was the change that was made, because there was some issues about that.

MR. AMMIRATI: But you will get two votes if you're representing the exempts and you're representing yourself?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Yes.

MR. AMMIRATI: Okay. Thank you.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: And to be totally blunt about it, that's not a matter of interpretation. At the risk of being excommunicated, Secretary Whalen was wrong. He was not interpreting the bylaws correctly, and he was taking proper votes away from people. So with all due respect to Secretary Whalen, he was wrong. It's not interpretation. Legal Counsel agreed with it.

MR. HANNIGAN: Does anybody else have any questions on who gets to vote or how?

MR. FRITSCHER: Good morning. Bill Fritsche here. Would you list the organizational members, regular members?

MR. HANNIGAN: Yes. So that is in new section, section two, regular members. Criteria for regular membership. The following may become

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2 regular member. 2.1.1, an individual volunteer  
3 firefighter or volunteer EMS provider. 2.1.2, an  
4 elected or appointed official whose duties  
5 represent the interests of the volunteer fire or  
6 volunteer EMS services. 2.1.3, a duly organized  
7 volunteer fire department, volunteer fire  
8 company, volunteer EMS agency, or sectional  
9 organizations (Northern New York Volunteer  
10 Firemen's Association, Northern Central New York  
11 Volunteer Firemen's Association, Hudson Mohawk  
12 Volunteer Firefighters' Association, Southern New  
13 York Volunteer Firemen's Association, Western New  
14 York Volunteer Firemen's Association, Central New  
15 York Firemen's Association, Southwestern  
16 Association of Volunteer Firemen, and Hudson  
17 Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association.) 2.1.4,  
18 a volunteer firefighters' association, volunteer  
19 firefighter benevolent association, or  
20 exempt/veteran volunteer firefighters'  
21 association. Those are all regular members.

22 MR. FRITSCHER: Now I didn't hear county  
23 association, do you think that should be listed  
24 separately, or would that be --

25 MR. HANNIGAN: They will be within the

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sectional organization. They would be considered a regular member.

MR. FRITSCHÉ: Okay, you wouldn't have to --

MR. HANNIGAN: You wouldn't need a separate, like Albany County or anything. They would be included in that group with the sectional reviews for purposes of as an example.

MR. FRITSCHÉ: Thank you very much.

MR. HANNIGAN: You agree with that, right?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: I agree.

MR. HANNIGAN: All right, there you go. He runs the election so, of course, check with him first.

Are there any further questions on that issue? Everybody understands the delegate thing and the alternate delegate?

(No response.)

MR. CARON: The second proposed change establishes the date upon which petitions for elected office can be requested and when they must be returned. So the reason this was put forward is because there was some questions, especially I think it was unique to Southern

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2 because how early they have their convention; and  
3 their convention was before it was announced who  
4 all the candidates were for the different offices  
5 so. Petitions being requested will begin January  
6 1st. More than likely the 2nd, only because the  
7 office is closed on the first, but anyway,  
8 January 1st. Petitions returned no later than --  
9 no early than February 1st and no later than May  
10 1st. So this way it gives everyone an  
11 opportunity to know who the candidates that are  
12 running for office; and in addition to that, they  
13 will be posted on the website so you know who  
14 they are as well.

15 Any questions at this time on that proposed  
16 change?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. CARON: Third and final one, third and  
19 final change empowers the Board of Directors to  
20 establish the dues schedule for the association.  
21 Currently the Board has no ability to respond to  
22 changing economic conditions until the annual  
23 meeting or a special meeting occurs. This change  
24 would help protect the economic viability of the  
25 association in volatile times.

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Any questions on that one?

(No response.)

MR. CARON: Okay, no questions on that one.  
We will do a voice vote or a hand vote?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: A hand vote.

MR. CARON: We're going to do a hand vote.

MR. OWENBURG: Mike, just on that.

MR. CARON: You have a question on --

MR. OWENBURG: Yes. That was brought to us  
yesterday that was interactive with our insurance  
company, what is that about?

MR. CARON: We used an example as like  
Provident Mutual, FASNY pays a premium for that  
insurance company. If the insurance company were  
to all of a sudden in mid year say that because  
of economic concerns they're raising their  
premium to FASNY, our dues are used to pay those  
premiums. We can't go to the general fund and  
use any other part of FASNY's money to pay for  
those premiums. It has to come out of dues. So  
if they came back and said we have to raise the  
premiums on you, and because it's attached to  
dues, the association would need to more likely  
raise those dues in accordance with the increase

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2 in the premiums; and the only ability we have  
3 currently at this point would be to raise those  
4 dues during a convention or a meeting of the  
5 members, if we had to call a special meeting or  
6 anything like that. So this would allow the  
7 Board to act prudently with the association's  
8 money to be able to use that increase in dues to  
9 pay for the additional costs in premiums.

10 MR. TASE: On that level, and I speak as  
11 the membership committee chair when this took  
12 place, this procedure, this benefit of AD&D  
13 policy was strictly prohibited to be done unless  
14 it was paid by dues. So if we don't have the  
15 power to raise the dues, if the insurance carrier  
16 raises that premium, the only alternative we  
17 would have as an association would be to  
18 eliminate the benefit, because we cannot pay it  
19 out of general fund. It has to come from dues  
20 funds, be affiliated with the dues structure.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. OWENBURG: If the insurance company  
23 raises your premium in February and you raise the  
24 dues, we already paid the dues in December for  
25 that year. How are you going to raise the dues,

1  
2 the membership dues -- it won't happen until the  
3 next -- Are you going to send out another bill  
4 for the increase?

5 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: No. Unfortunately, I  
6 think what's happening is in fixating on the  
7 example that was given, the AD&D insurance. The  
8 real -- the actual reason for that change is  
9 essentially we're in a high inflationary time,  
10 costs are going up. The magazine, for all we  
11 know, paper may double. Okay. The Board has no  
12 ability right now to compensate through the  
13 dues -- which really are our biggest source of  
14 revenue -- they have no ability to compensate for  
15 high inflationary times, increased costs.  
16 Basically you elect the Presidents, the Vice  
17 Presidents, the Board of Directors to make every  
18 other decision in this organization. You trust  
19 them to be the prudent stewards of your budget,  
20 your money, the home, the museum, everything; all  
21 we're saying is give them the same trust and  
22 confidence in being able to raise the dues,  
23 because right now we either have to wait until  
24 the annual meeting or we have to call a special  
25 meeting, which costs a significant amount of

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money to do. So that's really what it's saying.  
It's just -- The confidence that you give them in  
every other decision in this organization; and  
frankly, if they were to quintuple the dues, you  
get to vote at some point; and if you don't  
like it --

MR. OWENBURG: The problem is not the trust  
or changing, it's the mechanism. How are you  
going to do that if I paid West Babylon's  
Benevolent's dues in December for the following  
year, are you going to send me another bill in  
February?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: No, the dues schedule is  
a yearly dues schedule.

MR. OWENBURG: So how are you going to meet  
that? The due increase won't -- How are you  
going to meet the price of the magazine going up  
if you can't collect that extra one, extra money  
until the following December?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: It's not full proof. We  
can't anticipate if something happens in January  
verses June or July, but at least it gives them  
ability at some point in time to sort of catch up  
with those costs.

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MR. OWENBURG: Yes, we understand. It's just -- You're not going to get dues right away. It's still going to wait until next year, so the increase -- It's not the trust of the guys changing the price, it's how are you going to do it to meet your needs to pay for something.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: We establish a yearly dues schedule.

MR. OWENBURG: Right.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: So it's not empowering them to say on January 1st dues are \$10.00 per member, but then in February because the magazine went up now it's \$15.00 per member. That gets established, and what I would suggest to the leadership is at the organizational meeting you establish that.

MR. OWENBURG: Right.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: And then it goes for the year. If something extraordinary happens, God forbid some major thing at the home needs to be replaced, they'd have to call a special meeting to change that.

MR. MCKINNEY: I understand what you're saying and if you establish the dues structure,

1  
2 the Board of Directors establishes the dues  
3 structure at the real revision meeting at the  
4 close of the convention for the following year,  
5 so the 2023 dues structure will be determined  
6 Sunday -- If it doesn't make a difference, why  
7 wouldn't you put that to the membership to a  
8 vote? If it's going to still be in the annual  
9 due raise, why wouldn't the membership have the  
10 ability to raise those dues based on, look, guys,  
11 ladies and gentlemen, we got something, our  
12 magazine has gone up, our Provident Insurance,  
13 this is why we need to go from \$10.00 to \$12.00;  
14 and you explain to the membership? What's the  
15 timeframe difference? You get what I'm saying?

16 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Yes. The timeframe  
17 difference is that when the organization puts a  
18 budget together, they have to make certain  
19 assumptions and estimates about what costs are  
20 going to be in the next 12 months. Okay. So  
21 maybe they don't do it at the organizational --  
22 I'll just use that as example -- maybe they don't  
23 do it at the organizational meeting, maybe they  
24 do it the second meeting of the year after we  
25 have the budget in place. Again, budgeting is

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2 all estimates and projections. If the way we do  
3 it now is if something in the budget goes widely  
4 out of control, we're stuck. The dues are the  
5 dues. Then again, you empower them to develop  
6 the budget. Okay. You empower them to make all  
7 the spending decisions, but you don't empower  
8 them to have the ability to compensate if  
9 something unforeseen happens, or maybe something  
10 foreseen. I use paper. It seems like an  
11 insignificant thing, but we're being told that  
12 the cost of paper for the magazine could go out  
13 of control. So if that's the case if we can't  
14 lock into a set price, they might have to  
15 compensate for that or somehow. It just seems  
16 like you give them, in my individual member  
17 perspective, you give them 99 percent of the  
18 power to act on your behalf, you put your faith  
19 and confidence in them, but that one thing that  
20 they may never use or they may have to use at  
21 some point, you say, no, we've got to wait 364  
22 days until we can make that change.

23 MR. OWENBURG: Mike, I still go back to the  
24 same thing, you're not going to get that extra  
25 money until the following year. So what's the

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mechanism to pay for an increase? How do you pay

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the increase? If that paper goes up in February,

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and you can't get the money until next January or

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February, how do you pay for that in the

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meantime?

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: The way it is now, if we

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leave the annual meeting and the memberships

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don't -- If the body leaves the annual meeting

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and does not vote for a dues increase, then we

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put the budget together next month, and we

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realize, oh my God, the cost of heating oil, gas

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for the home, and the cost of paper, blah, blah,

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blah, blah, blah, it has gone up tremendously, we

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can't raise the dues to compensate for that,

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because the body has already left, all right; but

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when we put the budget together and we see all

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these projected costs going up, if this goes

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through, the Board would then be empowered to

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say, okay, we're going from \$10.00 to \$12.00,

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\$15.00. So give them at least that little

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ability once we do the budget to raise revenue to

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somewhat compensate for those increased costs.

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MR. DI VITTORIO: Mike DiVittorio,

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Portchester, Westchester County. Question, you

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said that the insurance -- and I don't mean to go

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back to that -- that the number we pay Provident

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was based on the dues and the dues number and

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that the dues could only be used to pay for that;

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is there any other expense to FASNY that only

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dues money can be used for?

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Not that I know of, no.

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That's the one that was tied to --

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MR. DI VITTORIO: That's the only one that

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ties to it.

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: (Continuing) -- to the

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membership numbers, yes.

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MR. DI VITTORIO: Okay, thank you. So at

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any other time, FASNY can adjust whatever budget

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and whatever other revenue sources they have.

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Thank you.

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MR. CARON: So you've heard the changes.

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So at this point I guess we're going to do a hand

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vote.

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Yes. We need -- There's

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135 people in the room. We need two thirds to

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pass any bylaws amendments, so that's 90, so we

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will do a hand vote.

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MR. CARON: We'll have the Sergeant-at-Arms

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do the count. I'm going to make the motion, and then John is going to ask for the second for procedural.

MR. OWENBURG: Are you going to do these individually?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Three.

MR. CARON: Yes, we're going to do three individual votes.

So I'm making a motion that we move forward with the bylaw changes to clarify the membership categories of the association, regular, associate and organizational.

MR. FARRELL: Do I have a second?

MR. SWEET: David Schmidt, Niagara County, seconds.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you. All those in favor raise your hand.

(Whereupon, the votes were calculated.)

SGT-AT-ARMS WITH: Please keep your hands up until we're done counting.

Thank you.

SGT-AT-ARMS: We have the number of 99, Mr. President.

MR. CARON: We have the number of 99.

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Motion is passed.

The second bylaw change. I make the motion that we change the ballot to establish the dates upon which petitions for elected office can be requested and when they must be returned. Again, the petition is requested beginning January 1st. Petitions returned no earlier than February 1st and no later than May 1st. Mr. President?

MR. FARRELL: Do I have second?

MR. FRITSCHER: Bill Fritsche, Livingston County, seconds the motion.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you.

All those raise your hand in favor.

(Whereupon, the votes were calculated.)

MR. FARRELL: One hundred twenty four, so carried.

MR. CARON: The third and final vote. I make the motion that the third bylaw change empowers the Board of Directors to establish the dues scheduled for the association. Currently the Board has no ability to respond to changing economic conditions until the annual meeting or a special meeting occurs. This change would help protect the economic liability of the association

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in volatile times. Mr. President?

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MR. FARRELL: Do I have a second?

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MR. HUNT: Gary Hunt, Niagara County,

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seconds the motion.

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MR. FARRELL: Those in favor please raise

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your hand.

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SGT-AT-ARMS WITH: We have a number of 81,

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Mr. President, for that.

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MR. FARRELL: Voted down.

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MR. CARON: Thank you very much, everyone.

12

That concludes my report of the bylaws, and have

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a good day.

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MR. FARRELL: I wanted to just stop the

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program here just for a couple of minutes.

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First, I want to recognize Dennis Randall that

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came in the room; and Dennis was Past President

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of the Board of Trustees. He served between

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1995 -- or President, I believe -- 1995, 1997;

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and he was also a past curator of the museum.

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Welcome.

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(Applause.)

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MR. RANDALL: Thank you. It's good to be

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back.

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MR. FARRELL: It's nice to see you.

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At this point I would like to welcome Assemblyman of the 92nd District who came in a few minutes ago, Thomas J. Abinanti.

MR. ABINANTI: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. ABINANTI: My name is Thomas Abinanti. I represent the 92nd Assembly District. I know the state was well represented yesterday. I couldn't make it, so I thought I would come over this morning to say hello. I want to welcome you to Westchester County to the town of Greenburgh, to the Village of Tarrytown; and most of all, to the 92nd Assembly District, which is the town of Greenburgh and the town of Mount Pleasant. I see some of you here who I work with on a regular basis. It's nice to see all of you. I hope you're enjoying your stay down here. This is a beautiful place and a very, very beautiful community.

One hundred and fifty years, that's a long time. Congratulations. Tarrytown is two years ahead of you. They celebrated their 150th anniversary a couple of years ago. So you're kind of on the same path here. That's a long

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time, and you deserve a lot of congratulations for being able to stay together. Democracy is not an easy thing. Not everybody wants to follow the leader. We have that problem with Albany all the time.

(Laughter.)

MR. ABINANTI: You can see in Washington they don't want to follow anybody.

(Laughter.)

MR. ABINANTI: They all want to go in their own direction, right? There's a discussion -- There's always three opinions, three different sides.

At any rate, I just want to bring greetings to you and thank you for coming here and welcome you all; and to thank you and all of your members for your dedication and your hard work on behalf of our communities. You're a vital component of our communities. We have a lot of places where we have career firefighters who are paid every day for what they do, but not every community can afford that; and I represent a community that has both, and I understand the controversy between the two, very often trying to maneuver that

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2 different views, but the volunteers are really,  
3 really, very, very important to our community.  
4 You form a part of the community. It's not just  
5 that you respond to emergencies. You're also an  
6 integral part of our entire community, a part of  
7 organizations, the glue that brings the community  
8 together. So we in the government really we very  
9 much appreciate what you do. It takes  
10 extraordinary people to be first responders like  
11 all of you and all of those who you represent;  
12 and you're all very extraordinary people. You're  
13 all prepared, and you work very hard.  
14 Preparedness for emergencies means learning the  
15 best techniques, training to use them, knowing  
16 how best to approach a situation. Your  
17 organization has been a leader of making sure  
18 that all of the different volunteer fire  
19 departments are prepared, understand that team  
20 work is necessary, are professional, and also are  
21 part of the community. Those of us who are  
22 running away from the fire while you are all  
23 rushing in, really have a responsibility to  
24 support you, which is why I'm here today and why  
25 I look to you as an assembly member for guidance

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2 on what we should be doing for the fire service,  
3 for the volunteer fire service.

4 We in the legislature have over the last  
5 few years tried very hard to meet your goals. I  
6 know we've asked a lot of the statewide  
7 priorities that you have given us; and this year,  
8 of course, I'm sure you already heard a lot about  
9 it, is that we authorized medical response  
10 billing, which is something that is important to  
11 several in my communities here, and I have been  
12 working on for 12 years I've been in the  
13 legislature. The little Village of Elmsford,  
14 right up the road here, has a volunteer fire  
15 department. They provide volunteer medical  
16 response, and if you take a look, you will see  
17 287, Saw Mill River Parkway, Route 119, 9 and 9A,  
18 and some of the other major roads, so that meant  
19 that the taxpayers of that little village one  
20 mile square were paying to respond to the medical  
21 needs, the accidents on roads for people from  
22 California, people from Maine, and everywhere  
23 else. So now being able to bill is really  
24 important and that's going to really help the  
25 Village of Elmsford. So we understand here --

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statewide. I'm glad we were finally able to get that done.

So I hope I never need you guys, but it's good to know you're there. So thank you for coming here. Enjoy yourself over the next couple of days. And once again, thanks very much.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Next I will call upon our Association Secretary John D'Alessandro to give us an overview of the elections that will take place tomorrow.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: So we have five elected officers that need to be filled at the 2022 annual meeting. Three of the five are uncontested races. So the office of President, Edward Tase, Jr., is running uncontested. The office of First Vice President, Eugene Perry, Jr., is running uncontested; and there is one seat on the Board of Directors open, and Kenneth Holmes, Sr., is running uncontested. Two of the five races are contested. The office of Second Vice President, there are three candidates; Santo Chan Rivera, Wayne Butts, and Mike Caron. There is one seat open on the Firefighters Home Board

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of Trustees, and there are two candidates for that, David Sweet and Michael Lapinski.

The polls will open tomorrow from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Biddle Mansion in the building that is connected here. So election results will be announced in the afternoon session on Friday, and then the winners, both the uncontested and contested will be sworn in on the Saturday morning session. Okay?

Any questions?

(No response.)

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Thank you.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you, John.

We will now move forward to brief introductions for each candidate that's running for office.

I now ask Mike Kislack to come to the podium for the purpose of introducing Edward Tase, Jr., for the position of President.

MR. KISLACK: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. KISLACK: FASNY Officers, members, delegates, and guests, it gives me great pleasure as Secretary of Western New York Volunteer

1  
2 Firemen's Association to introduce our brother,  
3 Edward Tase, Jr., for the position of President  
4 of the Firefighters Association of the State of  
5 New York. Ed's diligent work as a director,  
6 Second Vice President, and now serving as First  
7 Vice President of FASNY, has provided him with a  
8 great foundation to lead FASNY and its 80,000  
9 plus volunteers into the next 150 years.

10 Ed began his fire service career in July,  
11 1971 -- wow, a long time ago, Ed --

12 (Laughter.)

13 MR. KISLACK: (Continuing) -- with the  
14 Frontier Volunteer Fire Company as a junior  
15 firefighter. Ed is presently an active  
16 firefighter with the South Lockport Volunteer  
17 Fire Company. As a member of Niagara County  
18 Volunteer Firemen's Association, Ed has held the  
19 office of financial secretary and worked his way  
20 up being elected as President in 1998. In  
21 addition to his elected offices, Ed also served  
22 on many numerous Niagara County Volunteer  
23 Firemen's Association committees, as well as  
24 serving on the Niagara County Fire Advisory Board  
25 for 15 years. Ed served on various committees

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2 for the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's  
3 Association, including being chairman of the  
4 legislative committee.

5 As a FASNY member, in September of 1998, Ed  
6 was appointed to serve as the membership  
7 committee. He continued to do so, and was  
8 appointed chairman in 2002. Ed is very proud to  
9 have been able to play a large part in helping  
10 the late Mike Whalen create the status of a full  
11 company membership. Ed held his position until  
12 2010 when he was elected as a member of the Board  
13 of Directors. As a member of the board, he is  
14 very proud to have served on the following  
15 committees: Convention, Resolution, liaison to  
16 Legislative Committee, Vice Chairman of the  
17 Member Services Committee, Chairman of Bylaws  
18 Committee with the reorganization of the Media  
19 Communications Committee. Ed is the Print  
20 Projects Manager for the Media Communications  
21 Committee. Ed also serves on the FASNY  
22 Foundation Board, presently serving as President.  
23 Ed and his wife, Linda, live in Lockport, New  
24 York. They have been married 42 years. They are  
25 proud parents of two married daughters and four

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grandchildren. I believe two are here today,  
correct?

MR. TASE: The other two are coming.

MR. KISLACK: In closing, let me say that  
the quality of a leader is reflected in standards  
they set for themselves. If you know Ed, then  
you know he continues to set a high standard in  
leadership and will move our boots on ground  
firefighters to be the best they can become  
through their FASNY membership.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: And I now ask for Robert  
McConville to come to the podium for the purpose  
of introducing Eugene Perry, Jr., to the position  
of First Vice President.

MR. MCCONVILLE: Mr. President, thank you.

It's always great to be back on the podium.

(Laughter.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Without a doubt.

MR. MCCONVILLE: Without a doubt.

Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. MCCONVILLE: It's an honor and a

1  
2 pleasure to be here addressing all of you this  
3 morning on behalf of the Suffolk County Volunteer  
4 Firefighters' Association. Before I start, the  
5 officers and members of the Suffolk County asked  
6 me to acknowledge and congratulate Jerry Owenburg  
7 on his outstanding service he provided to the  
8 FASNY Firemen's Home as President of the Board of  
9 Trustees for the past two years. His dedication,  
10 time, and hard work on behalf of the residents  
11 and staff of the Home has been truly noteworthy,  
12 and we thank him for his service as President.  
13 Suffolk County also wishes to acknowledge and  
14 recognize Vice President of the FASNY Home, Peter  
15 Cincotta, for all his hard work, time, and energy  
16 on behalf of the Home for these past two years.  
17 They both should feel very proud for a mission  
18 well done, and we again thank them both. Great  
19 work.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. MCCONVILLE: Due to the unprecedented  
22 past two years, Suffolk County did not have an  
23 opportunity to introduce their candidate, Eugene  
24 Perry, for Second Vice President of FASNY.  
25 However, with your support, he was elected and

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has served exceptionally well for the past two years, and he continues to display his leadership qualities.

A quick history. Gene has been a member of the Patchogue Fire Department and the Van Guard Hose Company since 1979. During his time in Patchogue, he has served in numerous offices and held many positions and continues to be an active member of both the department and the company. He is a past President of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters' Association, past President of the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's Association, is presently Second Vice President of FASNY, a drill team track official, and a trustee to the Brookhaven Town Volunteer Firefighters' Museum in Ridge.

Gene joined FASNY in 1995 and started his FASNY career by being appointed as a member of the FASNY membership committee -- that's kind of strange, both you guys from the same committee end up side by side. That's pretty cool.

MR. TASE: I think Farrell is part of that too.

MR. MCCONVILLE: I didn't know that. That

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I didn't know -- three wise men.

(Continuing) -- where he has served for multiple years. He was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2013 to complete the term of Richie Vella, who passed away; and Gene was then elected to five year terms in 2015 and 2020. Gene was an outstanding director, always the first to volunteer, always the first to step up when called upon, and the first to do whatever was needed to be done at the time. He has continued to show these same qualities as Second Vice President, and we are sure he will continue as First Vice President. He has never wavered in his commitment to the volunteer firefighters of New York state. We, in Suffolk County, are confident that Gene will be a great asset to President Tase, to the Board of Directors, and to the membership of FASNY. Along with his wife, Kathy, sons Patrick and Christopher, Suffolk County is proud to present and endorse Eugene Perry as the next First Vice President of FASNY.

Thank you; and as always, may God continue to bless America.

(Applause.)

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MR. FARRELL: Now I ask JJ Jewett to come to the podium for the purpose of introducing Wayne Butts for the position of Second Vice President.

While they're coming up, could I have Rick Nemier come up and also Erik Orr. Thank you.

MR. JEWETT: Thank you, Mr. President. Sam Jewett from Southwestern. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you, welcome.

Thanks for allowing me the privilege to introduce this fine gentleman for this office, Second Vice President, Donald Wayne Butts.

Wayne started in the fire service in July of 1975 of Cuba Volunteer Fire Company. During his time, he's held offices of President in '95, '98, and 2003. Wayne was elected to the position of Chief from 1989 until 1992. He was then Fireman of the Year in 2003. Wayne has served as the chairman for the tracker pull and dairy -- for Cuba Fire. He's also served on a number of committees for Cuba, including fire prevention, bylaws, fundraising, just to name a few. Wayne is also a life member of the Allegany County Firemens' Association and the Allegany Town

1  
2 Chiefs' Association. He was elected and has  
3 served as President of both associations. Wayne  
4 started his way to become the President of  
5 Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen in  
6 2006. Wayne is still instrumental in  
7 Southwestern, sits on the public relations  
8 steering membership, and legislative committees.  
9 Wayne is a life member of the Western New York  
10 Volunteer Firemen's Association and is still very  
11 active in all these associations.

12 Wayne started his time at FASNY in 2005.  
13 In this time he has served on public relations,  
14 the winter games, the softball, and membership  
15 committees.

16 Wayne was elected as a trustee for the  
17 Firemen's Home and worked his way up to President  
18 of the Board. During his time on the board,  
19 Wayne was on committees to help improve several  
20 areas. I personally met Wayne over 15 years ago.  
21 In the last 10 years, I have had the pleasure to  
22 sit down, get to know him. Wayne has helped me  
23 as I have proceeded my way up the ranks in  
24 Southwestern. At this time, I am the Erie County  
25 Volunteer Vice President.

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I'm not only happy to call Wayne my friend, but my brother. Wayne has been endorsed by Western, Southwestern, along with several other organizations.

At this time, I am proud and honored to once again introduce Wayne Butts for the office of Second Vice President of FASNY.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: I now ask Rick Nemier to come to the podium for the purpose of introducing Michael Caron for the position of Second Vice President.

MR. NEMIER: Good morning, everybody.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. NEMIER: I would like to thank President John Farrell, First Vice President Ed Tase, Jr., Second Vice President Eugene Perry, Reverend Barrie-Lyn Foster, Director of Operations Andrew Doyle, attorneys Tim and Terry Hannigan, Secretary John D'Alessandro, the trustees of the Firemen's Home, the members of FASNY, and guests. Allow me to introduce Onondaga's County candidate for the Second Vice

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President of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

Mike Caron has been an active member of the Onondaga County Volunteer Firefighters' Association since 2006. He was asked by our President at the time, Dave VanMarter, if he would consider being a director, and he graciously accepted.

During his years as an officer of OCVFA, Mike chaired several committees and participated on many more. In 2013, Onondaga County Volunteer Firemen's Association wanted to host both Northern Central and Central New York Firefighters' Associations Sectional Convention on the same weekend. Mike showed his true leadership capabilities that weekend, as the convention ran without a problem, and both sectionals were very pleased with the outcome of the association and our association as well. During Mike's Presidency, he led the effort to increase our memberships, brought back training to our membership meetings, and was instrumental in raising funds for the Onondaga County Volunteer Firefighters' Association stained glass

1  
2 window at the Firemen's Home. During this time,  
3 I myself was moved to the position of First Vice  
4 President unexpectedly, and I only had two years,  
5 a two year term to learn my position and be ready  
6 to take over the President's job. Mike took me  
7 under his wing and proved to be a great mentor  
8 for me. Because of Mike Caron's leadership  
9 skills and mentoring, I was able to take the  
10 association through some of its most trying  
11 times, the pandemic. Mike's skill set and  
12 aforethought allowed us to update our bylaws and  
13 Zoom more meetings to allow our association to do  
14 its business during these troubling times.

15 The position of President, First Vice  
16 President, and Second Vice President, requires an  
17 individual to make good, sound business  
18 decisions, the ability to lead by example, the  
19 ability to communicate, to manage money, to  
20 embrace new technology, have time management  
21 skills, to be motivating, and yet be humble.  
22 Mike Caron has exhibited all of these qualities  
23 and more over the years. Mike Caron is the only  
24 one where you will get 100 percent return on your  
25 investment.

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At this time, it gives me the utmost honor and privilege to introduce my friend and mentor, Michael Caron, for the position of Second Vice President of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: I'd like to call Paul Rieben and also Steve Grandusky and Alan Way to come to my left to stand by at the podium.

At this time, I will ask Eric Orr to come to the podium for the purposes of introducing Santo Chan Rivera for the position of Second Vice President.

MR. ORR: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. ORR: Officers, directors, members, and guests, as President of Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association it is a pleasure and proud to present Chan Rivera for the position of Second Vice President of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York. Chan began his volunteer firefighter service in 1975 when he joined the Ellenville Fire Department, where he served as Second Assistant Chief and First Assistant Chief.

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2 In 1981, he relocated to Napanoch Fire District  
3 and served as a Lieutenant and Fire Commissioner  
4 for 25 years. He is still very active. He's a  
5 first responder doing the job of chauffeur and  
6 pump operator.

7 Chan is the past President of many  
8 organizations. Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's  
9 Association, Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's  
10 Association, Ulster County Fire Chiefs'  
11 Association, and The Royal Order of the Blue  
12 Vests. Chan is also an active member of the  
13 Royal Order of Red Vests, Southern Ulster Public  
14 Safety Association, New York State Fire Chiefs'  
15 Association, Inter-County Judges Association, and  
16 Orange County Fire Chiefs' Association.

17 Chan is an honorary life member of the  
18 Pioneer Engine Company Number One of Ellenville  
19 and the Enterprise Steamer Company Number Two of  
20 Walden; an honorary member of Greene, Putnam, and  
21 Rockland County Fire Associations, and a past  
22 director of the Orange Ulster Sullivan Dutchess  
23 County Firefighters' Burn Treatment Fund.

24 Chan remains very active in the Hudson  
25 Valley Association as President of the Hudson

1  
2 Valley Volunteer Firefighters' Association Past  
3 Presidents' Club and serves on the budget  
4 finance, convention sight, firefighters' club,  
5 steering committee, and legislative committee.  
6 In prior years, he served as chairman of fire  
7 prevention, hazmat homeland security, and parade  
8 and rules committees. After all those years of  
9 serving local, Chan chose to broaden his  
10 horizon's statewide service when he was elected  
11 to the FASNY Board of Directors and served 10  
12 years, from 2009 to 2019. His committee work,  
13 including capital projects, fire prevention, the  
14 FASNY Foundation Board, bylaws, convention  
15 exhibits, and as liaison to EMS, strategic  
16 planning, Two Percent Tax, and the Ways and Means  
17 committees.

18 During his 10 years, Chan travelled all  
19 over the state to fire events near and far to  
20 promote fire safety and FASNY's programs. His  
21 enthusiasm representing FASNY is part of his job.  
22 Chan has been a spokesman for this great  
23 association for legislation. Most recently,  
24 pushing the passage of the lemon law and school  
25 inspections. Chan's enthusiasm for community

1  
2 service extends beyond the fire service. He was  
3 elected and served nine years on the Ellenville  
4 Central School Board and is a member of the  
5 Ellenville Elks and has been for 37 years. He's  
6 also a member of the Sons of the American Legion,  
7 Taylor Cook Post for 19 years. Chan served as  
8 Ulster County Fire Committee Chairman for 26  
9 years, securing a \$60,000.00 grant for the fire  
10 safety trailer. The town board appointed Chan as  
11 Emergency Management Manager, where he has served  
12 for 10 years.

13 Santo Chan Rivera has worked very hard for  
14 this great association and will continue to do so  
15 as Second Vice President; and I'm proud to  
16 introduce my good friend, Chan Rivera, for the  
17 position of Second Vice President of FASNY.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. FARRELL: I now will ask Paul Rieben to  
20 come to the podium for the purpose of introducing  
21 Ken Holmes, Sr., for FASNY Director.

22 MR. RIEBEN: Good morning.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

24 MR. RIEBEN: President Farrell, First Vice  
25 President Tase, Second Vice President Perry,

1  
2 members of the dais and family, FASNY members,  
3 family, and friends, as President of the Central  
4 New York Firefighters' Association, I am proud  
5 and honored to present Ken Holmes, Sr., for a  
6 second five year term to the FASNY Board of  
7 Directors. Ken's career started in the fire  
8 service at the age of 16 when he joined the  
9 Westmoreland Fire Department as a junior member.  
10 He is currently in his 40th year. Ken moved  
11 through the ranks in many offices, including  
12 President and Chief. He was appointed town of  
13 Westmoreland District Chief in 1998 and is  
14 currently serving as a fire commissioner. Ken is  
15 also a member of the Oneida County Volunteer  
16 Firefighters' Association, where he held many  
17 positions, including President in 2004. As a  
18 member of the Central New York Firefighters'  
19 Association, he held many committee positions,  
20 still holding many committee positions, and  
21 served as President in 2012.

22 Ken's resume as a member of FASNY includes  
23 fire prevention and life safety committee, fire  
24 chiefs, firefighters gains, and in 2009,  
25 appointed as Assistant Sergeant-at Arms. In

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2017, Ken was elected to his first term to the Board of Directors. Since then, he has served on several committees, and also serves as a director on the FASNY Foundation.

Is it for these reasons and many others that I am proud to call Ken Holmes not only my friend but to introduce him for a second term for the FASNY Board of Directors.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: I now ask Steve Grandusky to come to the podium for the purpose of introducing Dave Sweet for the FASNY Trustee position for the Firemen's Home.

MR. GRANDUSKY: Honorable chair, clergy, officers, and fellow members. Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. GRANDUSKY: My name is Steve Grandusky. I am the President of Northern Central New York Volunteer Firefighters' Association. I am here to introduce our candidate for the Home Trustee position currently held by Mr. Alan Way.

The gentleman we are presenting is no stranger to most of you, but for those of you who

1  
2 do not know him and those of you who do, I will  
3 present a summary of his qualifications starting  
4 why Northern Central feels he's the best  
5 qualified candidate for the position. I am  
6 referring to David J. Sweet from my Benfield Fire  
7 Company. Firematically, David has over 50 years  
8 of service when he started in 1965 with the  
9 Wellsville Fire Department. Then to the East  
10 Bloomfield-Holcomb Fire Department, and finally  
11 to Benfield, the fire company for the last 46  
12 plus years. He has served in most of the  
13 administrative positions in Benfield and is still  
14 an active firefighter.

15 Additionally, David has served as President  
16 of the Monroe County Volunteer Firefighters'  
17 Association for four years, as well as a four  
18 year term as secretary. Way back now. In 2005,  
19 in Lake Placid I had the honor of nominating Dave  
20 for a term on the FASNY Board of Directors, the  
21 position he held for two five year terms.  
22 Following his service to FASNY, Dave served as  
23 Vice President and then President of Northern  
24 Central. He now serves as the financial  
25 secretary. Dave has served magnificently in his

1  
2 positions because of his experience, education,  
3 and professional training and his dedication.  
4 Educationally, Dave has an Associate's Degree  
5 from Alfred State College in electrical  
6 technology, a Bachelor's of Science Degree with  
7 majors in math and physics from the University of  
8 Rochester, and 64 additional hours of graduate  
9 studies at the Rochester Institute of Technology  
10 in Computer Engineering. Professionally, Dave  
11 has been trained in project management, including  
12 financial tracking and scheduling. Other areas  
13 of training include team development, diversity  
14 skills, and employee relationships. It is  
15 because of these skills and proven abilities we  
16 feel Dave is the best qualified to join in this  
17 administrative team, ie: The Board of Trustees  
18 of the FASNY Firemen's Home. We ask your support  
19 of David in the upcoming election for this  
20 position.

21 David is the endorsed candidate of Monroe  
22 County Volunteer Firefighters' Association and  
23 the New York Northern Central New York Volunteer  
24 Firefighters' Association.

25 Thank you for listening to me; and please

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remember to vote for Dave Sweet.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Now I will ask Alan Way to come to the podium for the purpose of introducing Michael Lapinski for FASNY Trustee to the Firemen's Home.

MR. WAY: Presidents Farrell, Tase, and Perry, Reverend Foster, members of FASNY, and guests, I am honored to present Michael Lapinski for the office of Home Trustee to replace me. Michael has been a firefighter for 46 years, with the Hamlin Fire Department 41 years, and the Henrietta Fire District for five years, all in Monroe County. He's a past President of the Hamlin Firemen's Exempts, Immediate Past President of Monroe County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and Trustee for Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association representing Monroe County. Mike has worked on commercial ambulances for the City of Rochester, New York for 15 years as an EMT One, was a member of the disaster response team for Rural/Metro Ambulance that responded to 9/11 and numerous hurricane deployments. He has worked as a tech in the

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trauma center in Rochester for 10 years. Mike also has been involved with fire prevention for many years and is a Certified Fire Life Safety Instructor, state and national.

I feel with all this experience, Mike would be an excellent member for the Board of Trustees for this great association to help take us into the next 150 years.

It would be my great honor to nominate Michael Lapinski for the position of Trustee for the Firemen's Home, the home away from home.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Okay. Moving forward, is there currently any unfinished business to be taken up at the annual meeting at this time?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: There is no unfinished business at this time.

MR. FARRELL: Hearing that there is no unfinished business, I will call upon First Vice President Ed Tase for a few announcements.

MR. TASE: Thank you, President Farrell.

First of all, I would like to just touch a little bit on the 150th celebration of FASNY. John D'Alessandro and myself have chaired the

1  
2 printing of the 150th Anniversary commemorative  
3 book. Unfortunately, that book is not ready for  
4 the convention because of COVID regulations with  
5 paper supplies and everything, but the writer for  
6 the book, because we've been working with a  
7 writer, is here at the convention today. He's  
8 outside this door in a booth. You'll see one of  
9 the big fliers out there about the book. If you  
10 get an opportunity to stop and speak with him,  
11 give him your history, give him your story about  
12 the association and your years with it. Through  
13 not getting the book on time, John and I  
14 diligently twisted some arms and pushed with the  
15 publisher that we were going to be able to get  
16 the commemorative part of this celebration here  
17 at the Tarrytown Estates, and on the boat ride  
18 tonight, as part of that book. The photographs  
19 on the boat tonight and all of that stuff will be  
20 in that new book. We are going to be getting  
21 that book some time the early part of November of  
22 this year. When we receive it, we are going to  
23 mail that to those that ordered it. There will  
24 be some fliers at the end of the dais here this  
25 morning where you can pick up to order the books.

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2 We're selling the book for a cost of \$20.00 per  
3 book. I can honestly tell you, it's costing the  
4 association a lot more money than \$20.00 per  
5 book, to produce this book, but we just thought  
6 we would put some value to the book, purchase it,  
7 and we will ship it to your residence as soon as  
8 they're available once we get them. So please,  
9 take the time to meet with Dan and give him your  
10 story, and we'll make it part of that book,  
11 because this is your history, not ours. So  
12 please, take the time. John, do you have  
13 anything to add on that?

14 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: No, just pick up a flier  
15 and put the order in now. Don't wait.

16 MR. TASE: We only ordered a limited amount  
17 of quantity, that's why we're saying that,  
18 because again, we don't want these to be sitting  
19 on our desks and on our shelves at the office  
20 when you celebrate your 300th. I know I won't be  
21 here.

22 (Laughter.)

23 MR. TASE: So if you could, please, take  
24 that on a serious note and move forward with  
25 that.

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Thank you for that opportunity.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: May I add something?

MR. TASE: Yes.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: I talked to that gentleman yesterday, and there was in depth research done on it, and it's a really good book to buy. It goes back to the beginning of time, so it's a good buy.

MR. TASE: This afternoon at 1:00 in this room will be the annual two percent tax forum. Please be on time, and have your questions ready. The goal is always to have a good program.

The 150th Anniversary Cruise is this evening. For those that are going on the cruise, please note in your cruise ticket it tells you what bus you're going to be on, it tells what deck and what seat you're going to be on the boat. Bring those with you when you board the bus. The buses will board outside the registration area of the hotel. There will be a sign in the yard where each bus group gather. Try to be there by 4:00 p.m. Those buses must leave this hotel together at 5:00 p.m. The ship

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ain't waiting for us, and if you want to be on it, be on time.

Please, this is our 150th celebration, we ask that we dress appropriately for the cruise. No shorts, no t-shirts. Let's look professional. Let's look nice. Be comfortable, but nice on the cruise. We appreciate it very much, and thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Vice President Tase just reminded me, we're going to put the fliers for the book out by Dan's table that way you can hopefully spend a few minutes with him. He's really worked very hard; and he is truly interested. He's not a firefighter, so he's been a bit amazed about what we do and how far back we go. So talk to him.

The only announcement that I had was we're going to have an election inspectors' meeting at noon in the Biddle Mansion. So if you were one of the inspectors that President Farrell designated, we can meet there. It should only take about 10 minutes.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you, John.

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At this time, I'll entertain a motion to recess this session of the 150th Annual Meeting until tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

Do I have a motion?

MR. SCHMIDT: David Schmidt, Niagara County, makes the motion.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: -- Niagara County, seconds it.

MR. FARRELL: Second. All those in favor say aye.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. FARRELL: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. FARRELL: So carried.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned to Friday, August 12, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.)4

