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

August 13, 2022

B E F O R E: JOHN P. FARRELL, JR., President

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

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MR. FARRELL: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. FARRELL: Moving forward with the program. Thank you. Our first order of business is to ratify the uncontested elections for President and First Vice President.

I call for a motion directing Secretary D'Alessandro to cast a single ballot on behalf of the membership for Ed Tase, Jr., for President of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York. Can I have a motion?

MR. HUNT: Gary Hunt, Niagara County, Frontier Volunteer Fire Company, proudly nominates Mr. Ed Tase, Jr., for President of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

MR. FARRELL: Do I have a second?

MR. SORULI: I second. Rich Soruli, Niagara County, from Frontier, seconds the motion.

MR. FARRELL: I have a motion and a second. All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. FARRELL: Opposed?

(No response.)

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MR. FARRELL: So carried.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. President, it is my honor to cast one vote on behalf of the membership for Ed Tase, Jr., as the first President of the second 150 years of FASNY.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. FARRELL: I now call for a motion directing Secretary D'Alessandro to cast a single ballot on behalf of the membership for Gene Perry, Jr., for the First Vice President of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

MR. P. PERRY: My President, Patrick Perry, proudly makes the motion to cast one ballot for Eugene Perry, First Vice President of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you.

Do I have a second?

MR. MCCONVILLE: Mr. President, Robert McConville, Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association, Selden Fire Department, proudly seconds the nomination of my good friend, Eugene Perry, First Vice President of FASNY.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you, Bob.

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All those in favor say aye.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. FARRELL: Don't have to worry about any
opposed.

So carried.

Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MR. D'ALLESANDRO: You guys jumped ahead
there, you know. I've got to do my thing before
he's the First Vice President.

Mr. President, it's my honor to cast one
vote on behalf of the membership for Eugene
Perry, Jr., as First Vice President.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: At this time, I call for a
motion directing Secretary D'Alessandro to cast a
single ballot on behalf of the membership for
Kenneth Holmes, Sr., for Director of the
Firefighters Association of the State of New
York.

Do I have a motion?

MR. REIBEN: Mr. President, Paul Reiben,
President of Central New York Firefighters
Association, proudly makes a motion to cast one

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ballot for Ken Holmes, Sr., Board of Directors
for FASNY.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you.

Do I have a second?

MR. PIENKOWSKI: Ken Pienkowski, Central
New York Firemen's Association, seconds the
motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot for
Ken Holmes for a second five year term to the
Board of Directors of the Firefighters
Association of the State of New York.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you, Ken.

All those in favor say aye.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. FARRELL: No need to vote for opposed.

So carried.

Mr. Secretary?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. President, it is my
pleasure to cast one vote on behalf of the
membership for Kenneth Holmes, Sr., for his
second five term on the FASNY Board of Directors.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. FARRELL: Congratulations again.

It is now my pleasure to call on Wayne
Jagow to give the oath of office to our newly

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elected President, Edward Tase.

REVEREND JAGOW: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: It is an honor, and it is a privilege, for me to be standing in front of you this morning for a lot of different reasons. Number one, I missed you all.

(Laughter.)

REVEREND JAGOW: Number two, I had the real distinct -- I'm not going to say it was a pleasure -- but watch Ed grow up in a lot of different ways and years --

(Laughter.)

REVEREND JAGOW: (Continuing) -- as time goes on; and to be here with his family is really even more important to me, because he comes from a rock solid family on both sides, with his wife, Linda, who has just been there for years and years, and been so consistent. Just a beautiful, elegant lady; and I remember Ed's parents, who did so much as far as the Frontier Fire Company and Niagara County and the fire service. Great, great family -- to Linda's parents, and now another generation and another generation.

When I campaigned for political office, I

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think one of the greatest memories that I have is Ed's two daughters, Amanda and Kristen, were little squirts at that time.

(Laughter.)

YOUNG CHILD IN AUDIENCE: What?

REVEREND JAGOW: Yeah, your mom was a little squirt.

(Laughter.)

REVEREND JAGOW: If you want to believe that too, so was I one time.

(Laughter.)

REVEREND JAGOW: But they went so far with such enthusiasm, because they would carry the banner for our parades that we went to throughout the county, and they were so committed to the campaign. My campaign colors were green and white. They had braces, and they had their braces green and white; and they had the most wonderful smile. And now for me to see them here as moms and to see now another generation, their children, gives us an example of what we are as a volunteer family, and to be able to have the privilege to administer the oath is something that I will cherish for a long time.

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It is my distinct honor now to administer the oath. I'm going to ask Linda to please take the firefighters bible that my Chief Chaplain carries with her in her purse all over the place. I don't have one, because I don't have a purse.

(Laughter.)

REVEREND JAGOW: And now, Ed, I'm going to ask you to please repeat after me.

(Whereupon, the Oath of Office of President was administered to Edward Tase, Jr., by Reverend Wayne Jagow.)

REVEREND JAGOW: Ladies and gentlemen, please rise and greet your new President.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. FARRELL: At this time, I now ask our newly elected officers, First Vice President Gene Perry, Second Vice President Chan Rivera, Director Kenny Holmes, Sr., and Firemen's Home Trustee Michael Lapinski to come to the dais to be sworn in. This oath of office will be administered by our Association Counsel, Tim Hannigan.

MR. HANNIGAN: All right, there's no way I could follow up Jagow with a better speech, so

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I'm just going to get right into it.

(Laughter.)

(Whereupon, the Oath of Office was administered to Eugene Perry, Jr., Santos Chan Rivera, Kenneth Holmes, Sr., and Michael Lapinski by Attorney Timothy Hannigan.)

Congratulations.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. FARRELL: Okay. At this time, we will have acceptance speeches; and to start off, President Edward Tase, Jr.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. TASE: Thank you very much for the faith you all put into me to lead this association for the next 150 years.

Officers, members, and staff of FASNY, the trustees of the FASNY Firemen's Home, as we move forward into the next 150 years, I proudly accept the office of President of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York. I accept this position with great pride and honor to be elected to serve.

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I want to say thank you to my home base fire company, South Lockport Fire Company, the Frontier Volunteer Fire Company, where I started my interest in the fire service at the age of 18, as soon as I turned age to join.

I also truly appreciate all the support from the various fire companies and associations to sectionals that have been a part of my years. Being a part of these organizations has led me down the road that I am currently on; and as your President, I will serve you to the best of my ability.

Also, it goes without saying that the love and support of family and friends is what enables us to achieve our highest goals in life; and for me, this includes the fire service and being a voice of the firefighters of the state of New York.

I want to convey a special thank you to my very supportive wife, Linda, and our two daughters, my son-in-law, and my beautiful four grandchildren.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Also to my parents who are

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2 looking out at me from above. They got me on
3 this road. Back in 1971, they brought me to my
4 first FASNY convention, and these were our family
5 vacations every year coming to the FASNY
6 convention for a week. That's when they
7 travelled throughout the state. We went to --
8 Bay. We went to White Plains. We went all over.
9 It was amazing. They kept me on the straight and
10 narrow and helped me to achieve my goals. I want
11 to include my FASNY family and their friendship
12 and support and guidance also.

13 In conclusion, as your President, I will
14 continue to be a voice for all who are part of
15 the FASNY membership. If you ever have any
16 questions, concerns, suggestions, please do never
17 hesitate to contact me or the FASNY office for
18 assistance.

19 Thank you to John Farrell for your
20 leadership, your guidance, your friendship, over
21 the past two years; and best of luck as we move
22 forward. This year we certainly continued to
23 try, a trying year for COVID-19 still lingering.
24 We will have to make changes many times. We will
25 have to preserve and adapt to what is needed to

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what we can do to continue working together and complete our mission of making FASNY great.

Thank you to all for being part of my team, and congratulations to the rest of the team.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. FARRELL: Next is the First Vice President Eugene Perry, Jr.

(Applause.)

MR. PERRY: Thank you, John.

Reverend Clergy, President Tase, Vice President Rivera, Directors, Trustees, office staff, FASNY members and guests, I want to begin by thanking all of you for the support for me as I assume the position of First Vice President.

The last 10 months have been a real learning experience for me. I wish to thank Past President Farrell, Past President Klein, and President Tase for their mentorship and patience as I began my tenure in FASNY leadership.

I also would like to thank the entire FASNY Board of Directors for your input and support as we navigated through the challenges that came before us and the direction to move this great

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2 association forward. Whether it be the
3 challenges of COVID-19, legislation, training, or
4 just plain every day issues, your Board of
5 Directors has worked as a cohesive team to tackle
6 anything that needed to be done.

7 Thank you, Trustee President Jerry
8 Owenburg, Trustee Vice President Peter Cincotta,
9 and all the Board of Trustees of the FASNY
10 Firefighters Home for working so very hard along
11 with home administrator Keith Henchey to keep our
12 brothers and sisters residents safe from COVID
13 and COVID free. This is due to no small fact
14 that the staff at the firefighters' home, these
15 men and women who work at the home are the most
16 dedicated people in the health care industry that
17 I have ever witnessed. They have done a yeoman's
18 job day and night caring for our brothers and
19 sisters who whatever reason can no longer take
20 care of themselves, and they should be commended
21 for that.

22 Our Director of Operations, Andrew Doyle,
23 and the entire office staff at 107, you make us
24 all up here look good. You are the first point
25 of contact for our membership when they have

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2 questions, concerns, or just aren't sure who to
3 contact. Thank you all for your hard work,
4 especially leading up to this week and what you
5 do continuously all yearlong. Believe me when I
6 say it, it doesn't go unnoticed.

7 I want to thank my mentor, FASNY Past
8 President Robert McConville, for my introduction
9 speech and my second this morning. Bob, we
10 banter, we argue, sometimes we get very loud with
11 each other --

12 (Laughter.)

13 MR. PERRY: (Continuing) -- but in the end,
14 it's all about moving the volunteer fire service
15 forward, and I thank you very much for your
16 friendship and insight.

17 President Robert Sutton, Vice Presidents
18 Peter Cincotta, Vinny Ammirati, Giovanni
19 Chiarelli, and the entire executive board of the
20 Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters
21 Association, thank you for your constant support.
22 Also President Robert Ottaviano and the executive
23 board of the Southern New York Volunteer
24 Firefighters Association, your support is very
25 much appreciated.

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To all the FASNY Past Presidents, past executive committee, directors and past home trustees, you are our legacy that have brought us to this 150th anniversary celebration and laid the groundwork for these boards and the leadership that come before us. Your counsel and input is very much appreciated.

A big thank you to my home company, the Van Guard Hose Company Number One in Patchogue Fire Department. You've supported me in everything that I have ever done, and for that I truly appreciate it.

To Ex-Chief Tom Newham, Jr., I don't know what I would have done if I didn't have you for all the support and encouragement you've given me over the many years. You taught me how to be a good firefighter and how to be a team player off the fire ground. For that, I can never thank you enough.

Finally and most important, I want to thank my family. My wife, Kathy, for the last 32 years has put up with the constant meetings, phone calls, and my time away from home. Your support has been immeasurable. I want to thank you. I

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can't thank you enough for allowing me to do this. I love you very much.

To my sons, Patrick and Christopher, growing up in the volunteer fire service, coming with me to conventions and other events across the state, often made your mark in the Brookhaven Fire Department. I love you, and I'm extremely proud of everything you've accomplished.

Again, I thank you for all your support and confidence, and thank you for your support of the volunteer fire service in New York state.

Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. FARRELL: Next up is our new Second Vice President, Chan Rivera.

(Applause.)

MR. RIVERA: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. RIVERA: Reverend Clergy, President Tase, Vice President Perry, and Junior Past President Farrell, Board of Directors, and the Board of Trustees, friends and members, I am so honored of having your trust in me being elected as your Second Vice President of this great

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association. I'm here for you. I want to thank Mike Caron and Wayne Butts, two good men for running a good, clean campaign.

(Applause.)

MR. RIVERA: Thank you. The future which we have is a great recruitment retention program in FASNY, but we have to go further than that. Going to county fairs to promote FASNY. Going after fire companies, county and sectional associations, to make a FASNY storm.

A few people I want to thank and supported me through the years. My driver and my partner, Eric Orr.

(Applause.)

MR. RIVERA: I've got a short list.

(Laughter.)

MR. RIVERA: Mike Karashay and my dear Delbe Spath. I wish he was here. We went up and down the valley, met great people, also down the island.

I want to thank the Sullivan County boys. Harry, Joe, Tom, and Cassidy, and other people. I want to say thank you. You know who you are, the great people in this state that really helped

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me.

I also would like to thank my own company, the Napanoch Fire Department Company, that supported me; the Ulster County Volunteer Firemen's Association, and the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. Thank you.

I want to thank my son, Corey, that couldn't be here today. My daughter in law, Brianna, and the love of my life, my granddaughter Sadie. There's two friends I want to thank, but we lost, Jim Ryan from Baldwin and my mentor, Joseph Kelly. I want to thank them. I wish they were here today to see me.

(Applause.)

MR. RIVERA: In closing, I promise you, this association, we shall move ahead and make FASNY number one in the country and in the state of New York.

God bless this association, state of New York, and God bless the United States of America.

Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. FARRELL: Next to the podium is FASNY Director Kenny Holmes, Sr.

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(Applause.)

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MR. HOLMES: Good morning.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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MR. HOLMES: President Tase, newly elected
First Vice President Perry, and Second Vice
President Chan Rivera, I'm once again proud to
start my second five year term serving this great
organization and the boots on the ground
firefighters of our state.

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First, I would like to thank Past President
Klein and President Farrell for what I would say
is the toughest two terms for our president.
Both made many changes to FASNY for the better,
and both had to deal with the COVID pandemic.

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It's been a pleasure working with our
office staff and fellow board members for the
first five years. I'm looking forward to working
with everyone again. I would like to thank my
home department, Westmoreland Fire Department,
for all their support, and I'm happy that they
made the trip down here for the weekend. Thank
you.

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(Applause.)

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MR. HOLMES: I would also like to thank the

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Oneida County Firemen's Association, Central New York Firemen's Association, and President Paul Reiben for doing my introduction speech. Thank you for all their support.

My dad, for whom I would not be here today, for making me get involved in all the associations. My son, Kenny, Jr., and his friend, Danny. Thank you. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention Kelly, my best friend and travel campaign, personal secretary; and of course, my good friends, Donny and Shelly Farrell, who are not in the room today. Donny is busy.

(Laughter.)

MR. HOLMES: I just want to thank them, because they taught me what it's all about, having fun.

Thank you for all your support, and I look forward to your support as I start my campaign for Second Vice President in 2024.

Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. FARRELL: Next, Firemen's Home Trustee, Michael Lapinski.

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(Applause.)

MR. LAPINSKI: Good morning, everyone.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. LAPINSKI: First of all, I just want you to know I'm not going to sing my speech for the people who were on bus number 10.

(Laughter.)

MR. LAPINSKI: To the FASNY members, it's a great honor for me to be elected to this position. I want to start off by thanking the members of FASNY who elected me to this position. I would like to thank my wife, Jennifer. I would like to thank Diana and Royer Pfersick, Dave and Sue Bell, for their encouragement to run for this position. Most of all, I would like to thank my friend, my mentor, Al Way, for believing in me that I could do the job.

It was an honor to take on the position as trustee. I am looking forward to working with all of you and to help maintain a superior quality of life for my brothers and sisters at the Firemen's Home and to help ensure the future for the next generation of firefighters to come.

Thank you.

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(Standing ovation.)

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MR. FARRELL: Ladies and gentlemen, coming to podium is President Ed Tase.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Boy, not even a breather. You put me right to work.

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(Applause.)

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(Laughter.)

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MR. TASE: Don't go too far.

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First Vice President Gene Perry, Second Vice President Chan Rivera, FASNY Director Ken Holmes, Mike, congratulations; and welcome to the team.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: I will now ask Sergeant-at-Arms Tom With for a report of the Sergeant-at-Arms for the week's events.

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SGT-AT-ARMS WITH: Good morning, everyone.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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SGT-AT-ARMS WITH: Mr. President, that was some quick steps off this podium, John.

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(Laughter.)

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SGT-AT-ARMS WITH: That's the quickest I've seen you move in a few years.

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(Laughter.)

MR. WITH: But with grace, you did a great job. Thank you.

I have two parts of my report. Report of the Sergeant-at-Arms. The opening session of 290, memorial service at 296, heroes award of 317, the afternoon business session was 158 with keynote speaker Mike Dugan. The business session on Thursday was 135, Two Percent Tax Forum was 210.

On Friday, the morning business session was 137. The two training sessions were 65 and 76 respectively. The afternoon business session with the election results was 120; and today, the business session is 135 and still counting as I see people coming in the room.

The second part is I'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you. We saw a slide the other day on the screen here when Brian McQueen was talking about what we do in the fire service. We don't say thank you enough. I joined FASNY in 1992 under the guidance of Firemen's Home Trustee Thomas Walsh of my home department Fuller Road. In 1995, President Gunnar Nielson asked me to be

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the chairman of a new committee called Ways and Means. In over 20 years, I was asked by President Pienkowski to be the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms. I then served Presidents Ken Pienkowski, Steven Klein, and John Farrell. Gentlemen, thank you all.

I will now focus my energy to the office of Chief Chaplain of the New York State Association of Fire Chaplains. I follow in the footsteps of Chaplain Wayne Jagow, Chaplain Bill Mayo, and Chaplain Barrie-Lyn Foster.

And finally, a thank you to all the members of FASNY that I served with and worked with since 1995. Mr. President, this is my report.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. TASE: Do I have a motion to accept the report of the Sergeant-at-Arms?

MR. SCHMIDT: David Schmidt, Niagara County, so moves.

MR. TASE: And do I have a second?

MR. WAY: Alan Way, Monroe County, seconds it.

MR. TASE: I have a second.

Any questions on the numbers?

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(No response.)

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MR. TASE: All in favor?

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

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MR. TASE: Opposed?

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(No response.)

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MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

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I now call First Vice President Gene Perry

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to make some announcements.

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MR. PERRY: Thank you, President Tase.

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The 150th Anniversary Dress Parade will be

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this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Shuttle buses will

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begin leaving each hotel at 1:00 p.m. The buses

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will make four runs from each hotel. After the

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parade has ended, the shuttle buses will be

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staged next to the Tarrytown Fire Headquarters.

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There will be signs posted on the buses stating

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where they will be making stops at. They make

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more than one stop run, so please be patient.

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The FASNY officers, past officers, and

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LAFASNY officers, we are marching or riding in

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the dress parade. The first shuttle bus will be

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leaving from the Tarrytown House at 1:45 p.m.,

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and a second run will occur at 2:15 p.m.

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The parade trophies will be awarded

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2 starting at 7:45 p.m.; and at the conclusion of
3 the award ceremony, there will be three shuttle
4 buses available. They will make stops at all the
5 hotels. Again, please be patient as the buses
6 will be making more than one run.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. TASE: Thank you; and again, be
10 patient. Donny and April and the Tarrytown team
11 have worked diligently on those -- for this
12 parade, but be patient with them. Things do
13 occur at times, and we will get through it, but
14 it will be a great parade. Donny and the
15 Tarrytown Department has put in a lot of work
16 making this out to be an outstanding parade; and
17 I thank Donny, and I thank the Tarrytown Fire
18 Department for their support in closing out our
19 150th convention with that tremendous event.

20 Those that are driving in FASNY vehicles, I
21 think Donny has already spoke with you, the
22 location of the vehicles to get them down to the
23 lineup; but please, if you're confused, ask the
24 question before you get too confused.

25 (Laughter.)

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MR. TASE: I now call upon Barrie-Lyn Foster for the closing prayer.

(Whereupon, there was a closing prayer by Reverend Barrie-Lyn Foster.)

MR. TASE: One little housekeeping before we close. Ken Holmes, Mike Lapinski, and the rest of the board, can you stay up here, because Mitch wants to get your photographs; and he also wants photographs of the three Presidents and Past Presidents up here so we can get those things done real quick so we can continue to move forward.

This concludes the business session of 2022 Annual Meeting.

I thank you all for attending and participating in this important event.

I will now call for a motion to adjourn the session of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

MR. PIENKOWSKI: President Tase, Ken Pienkowski, Central New York Firemen's Association, so moves.

MR. TASE: We have a motion. Do I have a

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second?

MR. MCCONVILLE: Bob McConville, Suffolk
County, seconds that motion.

MR. TASE: Bob McConville from Suffolk
County, seconds it.

Any questions?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

Thank you very much for all your diligent
work this week. We truly appreciate it.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, the annual meeting was
concluded.)

