

1
2 OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 152ND ANNUAL
3 MEETING OF THE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD FROM THE 8TH DAY OF
5 AUGUST THROUGH THE 10TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024, AT
6 NIAGARA FALLS CONVENTION CENTER, 101 OLD FALLS
7 STREET, NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK.

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11 August 8, 2024
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15 **B E F O R E:** EDWARD TASE, JR., President
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24 Jamie J. Woodard
25 Court Stenographer

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MR. TASE: Good morning, everyone.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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MR. TASE: I would like to ask everyone to please take your seats and silence your

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telephones and your pagers, please. No

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disruptions, please.

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I would like to ask everyone to please stand for the Niagara County Sheriff's Department

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for posting of the colors.

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(Whereupon, Niagara County Sheriff's

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Department posted the Colors.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you, gentlemen.

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The fire exits are clearly behind you. If an alarm goes off, we must move out in an orderly fashion. We did a great job last year.

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(Laughter.)

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MR. TASE: We did what we were supposed to do, but thank you very much, and please exit in an orderly fashion.

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At this time, I would like to call upon Chaplain Barrie-Lyn Foster for the invocation.

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(Invocation by Chaplain Barrie-Lyn Foster.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you, Barrie-Lyn.

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And now I call among Sergeant-at-Arms Juan

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Batta to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Sergeant-at-Arms Juan Batta and the audience members.)

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MR. TASE: Mr. Sergeant-of-Arms, do we have a quorum?

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SGT-AT-ARMS BATTA: Yes, we do, Mr. President.

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MR. TASE: Thank you very much.

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I would like to welcome everyone to the 2024 Firefighters Association of the State of New York Annual Convention.

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At this time, I will call the meeting to order.

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Before we begin our formal agenda, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge all the first responders who are battling the tropical storm Debby, including the New York State Administrator James Cable, the New York State Deputy Fire Administrator Luci Labriola-Cuffe, who have sent their regrets and are unable to be with us this morning. They're out working diligently. And also to our brothers and sisters who were going to be with us this morning but are

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2 unable to attend because of the storm, our
3 gentlemen from South Carolina, who we have built
4 a great partnership over the years with. We wish
5 them all well and safe work as they continue to
6 do what we do to protect our people.

7 At this time, we have a video.

8 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

9 MR. TASE: And with us this morning
10 representing -- just for an introduction -- is
11 Courtney Ball -- Is she in the room -- from
12 Kristen Gillibrand's office?

13 MS. BALL: Right here.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. TASE: Thank you for joining us this
16 morning. We truly appreciate that.

17 It's my distinct honor to now call upon New
18 York State Majority Leader Senator Robert Ortt
19 for a few words.

20 (Applause.)

21 SENATOR ORTT: So as much as I like the
22 sound of that, technically it's the Senate
23 Minority Leader as you would have it, but I like
24 where Ed's head is at. I like what he's
25 thinking.

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2 Well it's great to be with all of you this
3 morning. I know we have FASNY members and
4 volunteers from all over here in New York State.
5 As someone who represents beautiful Niagara
6 Falls, I certainly want to recognize my colleague
7 in the State Assembly, Angelo Morinello, and our
8 Mayor, Mayor Robert Restaino. Most of my
9 district as you move east, I represent all of
10 Niagara, Orleans, and parts of Monroe County,
11 almost to the City of Rochester. Most of that, I
12 would say 75 to 80 percent of it, is represented
13 or protected by volunteer firefighters. So I
14 certainly have a great appreciation for what you
15 do and the importance of the volunteer fire
16 service.

17 As I said this morning briefly at the
18 breakfast, the key is not only to represent
19 today, but to make sure the volunteer fire
20 service is here 20 years from now, 25 years from
21 now, 50 years from now. There is another
22 generation after we're all gone that there are
23 continuing generations of men and women sitting
24 in these chairs, whether it's here or somewhere
25 else, protecting our communities. That's what

1
2 you do. That's what you've done. It's important
3 we get the right legislation, we get the
4 resources to you, but it's also important that
5 we're thinking ahead as elective leaders to make
6 sure that there are -- that the volunteer fire
7 service continues to be strong, and if we can
8 strengthen it here in New York, we should do
9 that.

10 It's an honor to be with you this morning.
11 I hope you get a chance -- I'm sure they're going
12 to put you through the paces and it be a lot of
13 work, and I'm sure Ed will keep you on your toes,
14 but hopefully you get a chance to go, if you
15 haven't already, to see the falls, see the state
16 park, see the City of Niagara Falls, which I know
17 is really on the upswing under Mayor Restanio's
18 leadership, but it's a beautiful part of the
19 state. It's a part of the state that I am very
20 proud to represent, and I am very grateful to be
21 here today.

22 I also want to recognize from the Assembly
23 Joe DeStefano. There he is. All the way from
24 Long Island, from Suffolk County, he's up here.
25 We have Assemblywoman Karen McMahon is also here.

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2 She's not from quite as far. She's from Erie
3 County, so she didn't travel as far, but we're
4 happy that she's here as well.

5 You have strong support on both sides of
6 the aisle in Albany, and that is certainly
7 something you should know. Defending and
8 representing the volunteer fire service is not a
9 partisan issue. It should never become a
10 partisan issue, and it's not, but it's because of
11 the work FASNY does to ensure that it's not a
12 partisan issue, to ensure that legislators from
13 both sides of the aisle have legislators from
14 different parts of the state, maybe even
15 legislators who do not represent a lot of
16 volunteers understanding the important work and
17 the important service you render to the people of
18 New York.

19 So thank you very much for being here
20 today. I do want to say it is really an honor
21 for me to have President Ed Tase from Niagara
22 County. I mentioned this morning I went all the
23 way to Westchester when he became the President.
24 I think Governor Hochul was there as well. Any
25 time -- I'll admit, I'm a little bit of a homer.

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2 Any time a Niagara County western New Yorker
3 ascends to a great position of leadership, I
4 think it's a great thing, and he is a great
5 advocate and a great leader for all of you, and
6 we're very proud of him, and I'm very proud of
7 him.

8 So thank you very much for being here.
9 Thank you for the work that you do, and God bless
10 you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. TASE: Thank you, Senator. And thank
13 you to the other members of the assembly that are
14 here with us this morning. We thank you so very,
15 very much for your partnership in us doing the
16 work that we love to do.

17 Thank you very much.

18 At this time, I would like to call on the
19 Mayor of the City of Niagara Falls, Robert
20 Restaino, for a few words.

21 (Applause.)

22 MAYOR RESTANIO: Hello, and welcome back.
23 It's great to have you here again. Niagara Falls
24 really tries to roll out the red carpet,
25 especially for our public safety professionals

1
2 and all of you who are so special to the
3 communities that you serve. I also want to
4 recognize County Legislator Chris McKimmie, a
5 public safety professional, who is with us here
6 as well today.

7 I can tell you that 152 years of any
8 institution is pretty impressive. And given the
9 fact that all of you every day answer the call
10 when it comes is really a tribute to your
11 dedication and your commitment. I can say this,
12 I'm looking forward to tonight's block party. I
13 enjoyed it last year. I can't wait for this
14 year. And I want to also say we love our
15 firefighters. Here in the City of Niagara Falls
16 we've invested a little over 10 million dollars
17 in our firefighters, because we think that that
18 is one of the most important things that we can
19 provide and so they're available for you. Our
20 new Fire Chief, Gary Pochatko -- Obviously, if
21 you have not had a chance to speak with him, you
22 certainly know how to reach him, and our fire
23 department is also appreciative of the times when
24 we have to work with some of our suburban
25 volunteer fire companies to address major events.

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So again, I welcome you all to Niagara Falls. I look forward to being with you throughout your convention, and should you need anything, please contact us at City Hall, and we'll be more than happy to deliver on it.

So thanks again. Welcome to Niagara Falls.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Thank you, Mayor. We appreciate that very, very much.

Fire Chief, is he still in the room? I know he was at my morning breakfast. I think he was flying off to do some other business, but again, we thank him for being with us this morning for breakfast.

At this time, Chris McKimmie, Niagara County Legislator. He also serves on the fire advisory board, economic development for the city. Chris for a few words.

(Applause.)

LEGISLATOR MCKIMMIE: So good morning. It's a great honor to have you all in Niagara County for this year's second consecutive FASNY convention.

As a County Legislator and member of the

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2 community safety and security committee and the
3 county fire advisory board, I'm thrilled to see
4 such a group of dedicated individuals gathered
5 here today.

6 As President Tase said, I serve on our
7 county's economic development committee as well,
8 and thank you again for coming here two years in
9 a row. At the president's breakfast, I mentioned
10 that this event has about a \$750,000.00 impact,
11 economic impact, between the hotel stays, the
12 social activities, the food and beverage. I was
13 quickly nearly beheaded because I was reminded
14 that that number is projected to be even higher.
15 So I looked it up, and right now it's projected
16 to be over \$836,000.00. So on behalf of Niagara
17 County, thank you very much for coming here two
18 years in a row.

19 As the Mayor said, you know I work in
20 public safety as well, I was a card carrying
21 member of FASNY for many years. I served as a
22 volunteer fireman myself. I am a past president
23 of my local volunteer fire department in the Town
24 of Winfield, so I understand the sacrifices that
25 you make every day to keep our community safe.

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In fact, I served with President Tase in the same fire company for a period of time.

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Our County legislature, and our community safety and security committee, have worked with members of congress to advance some of FASNY's political agenda opposing some of the OSHA regulations and trying to curtail those to be a little bit more friendly to the volunteer fire service. The work that FASNY does in the western and all of the National Volunteer Fire Council, all the work that you folks do, really makes our community a safer place.

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And on behalf of Niagara County, welcome and thank you very much. I hope you enjoy your stay.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Chris, thank you very much.

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This morning he was with us at my morning breakfast, but unable to stay with us this morning, was our Director of Emergency Management here in Niagara County, Jonathan Schultz. Him and his staff are diligently working for us in our public safety, but I thank him for joining us this morning. He sends his apologizes that he

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2 could not be with us for the rest of this
3 morning.

4 At this time, I would like to call upon
5 John Percy. John is from the convention center
6 here in Niagara Falls and a great supporter of
7 our events.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. PERCY: Good morning, everyone. John
10 Percy, President and CEO of Destination Niagara
11 USA, and we manage this wonderful building that
12 you're in. I am the official ambassador of the
13 destination and marketing organization, the
14 official tours and promotion agency that
15 represents the wonderful brand of Niagara County
16 and Niagara Falls USA worldwide. It's an honor
17 to have you in our community. Thank you for
18 being here. An official welcome back to Niagara
19 Falls for your second year. We'd love to have
20 you every year. I know poor Chris, I said, no,
21 it's higher. It's higher. So I apologize to
22 you. He was right. It's over \$800,000.00 of
23 economic impact. So our restaurants love you.
24 Our hotels love you. We all love you. So keep
25 drinking more so we can get that number up to a

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million dollars --

(Laughter.)

MR. PERCY: (Continuing) -- over the next few days. We would love a million dollar economic impact to this community.

But more importantly, to this wonderful gentleman, to President Tase, for his ambassadorship. He's a Niagara County native, a Lockport native, who really was instrumental in bringing this to Niagara Falls and Niagara County for the last two years, so join me in thanking him, his work.

(Applause.)

MR. PERCY: Thank you, a pleasure. And I would be remiss if I didn't thank my team. I know Jason was supposed to speak this morning. Jason and Melissa and Ashley and many others here at the convention center, they work day in and day out, and they're here all the time with you over the next few days to make sure this was flawless. If not, they'll hear from him. Come to me if it's not. Also, Reanna Darone from my team who works hard with April to bring this. Join me in thanking April Rounds and her team and

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2 a big group of volunteers who pull this off every
3 year. April, we love you. I don't know if she's
4 in the room. She's probably not.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. PERCY: Thank you, April, for all that
7 you do for FASNY.

8 So it's a pleasure again to have you in our
9 community. We wish Long Island well next year.
10 I know you'll do a great job in bringing this
11 group to the wonderful community of Long Island.
12 I wish you much success over the next few days.
13 Your work at the President's breakfast heard
14 about all the advocacy efforts. I belong to many
15 associations, and the work that's done on the
16 association level, your passion and dedication is
17 what helps these legislators move laws and things
18 that affect us daily on a local basis, a
19 statewide basis, so continue the great work that
20 you do, and many thanks to your volunteers, to
21 the people that you represent in your respective
22 communities. Thank you for all that you do every
23 day. It's vitally important to our communities,
24 so many, many thanks.

25 Again, a pleasure to have you in Niagara

1
2 Falls, New York, and we look forward to hopefully
3 having you back in the future. We would welcome
4 you back with open arms. Thank you again.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. TASE: Thank you tremendously. Is
7 Ashley still in the room or did she sneak out? I
8 understand Ashley was the ringer at the golf
9 tournament yesterday, and she did a great job I
10 heard, and she really knocked the socks off of
11 them over there.

12 There she is. Ashley, thank you very much.
13 Ashley was very kind to open up this facility
14 very early this morning for me and my team for
15 the news conferences that we did this morning at
16 4:45 a.m. It's dedication. They said whatever
17 you need, we'll be here, we'll have the place
18 open for you, but Ashley, thank you, and thank
19 you for your time.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. TASE: At this time, I would like to
22 call upon Dave Denniston, the second vice
23 president of the New York State Fire Districts
24 and a leader and a proponent for us working with
25 us every single day since December of 2023 on

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OSHA 1910.

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(Applause.)

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MR. DENNISTON: President Tase, thank you.

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Thank you all for being here this morning. A 152

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years, that's pretty exciting. Congratulations

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on that. Congratulations on two years, Ed.

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You've done an amazing job, and Gene, we look

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forward to the next two years and the things that

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are yet to come.

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So on behalf of President Corkery, the

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directors, and the members of the New York State

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Fire Districts' Association, we are pleased to be

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here this morning. We would be remiss, however,

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guys, if we didn't say we are in the fight of our

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lives in the fire service, especially the

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volunteer fire service here in the State of New

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York. I'm sure by now everybody has heard of

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OSHA 1910 156. We kind of got clobbered with it

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back in December. We started meeting on a weekly

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basis. FASNY has been well represented on those

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conference calls that we've had on a weekly basis

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where we've discussed what would that mean to the

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fire service here in New York State, what can we

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do to try to change it a little bit, to try to

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2 slow it down. Again, our message has been clear
3 from the beginning. We are all for firefighters'
4 safety. We a hundred percent agree that there
5 are some changes that need to be made and can be
6 made and that we can effectively work together to
7 do, but we're very concerned about this proposal,
8 especially with the wording. So with the help of
9 FASNY, fire chiefs, coordinators, fire police,
10 chaplains, you name it, we've been to Albany,
11 we've been to Washington. I was given the
12 opportunity to speak on behalf of FASNY at a
13 congressional hearing, and we've made our message
14 loud and clear. Trust us, at OSHA they know who
15 we are at this point in time, and they are paying
16 attention. We ended the comment period a couple
17 weeks ago on Monday. We got a little over 3,000
18 comments put into the portal thanks to all of you
19 who stepped up and wrote those comments. The
20 next step of this will be the public hearing,
21 which is slated for November 12th, starting on
22 November 12th, and then will go consecutive days.
23 I say we fill that agenda up for them and make it
24 go well into next year, but again, we need to
25 make sure that our voices are heard. We need to

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2 continue. All your elected representatives are
3 home right now on break. Be in their ear. Be at
4 the events they're at. We've got great
5 representation here from New York State. Claudia
6 Tenney was here the other day from Congress. I
7 spent the weekend with Marc Molinaro and Brandon
8 Williams, and they understand what we need, but
9 we need to continue to make sure that they're
10 standing with us and part of us.

11 So thank you. Enjoy the conference. When
12 I heard the \$750,000.00 this morning, I said
13 we'll drink a lot more than that. They've got it
14 up to \$800,000.00 and something now. I think we
15 can get over the million mark. So let's have a
16 good time tonight. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. TASE: Dave, thank you for all you do
19 and what you continue to do for us. We truly,
20 truly appreciate that.

21 At this time, I'd like to call upon
22 immediate past president of the New York State
23 Fire Chiefs Association, Scott Ewing, for a few
24 words.

25 (Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Tony Tripp and Bruce are going to come with him.

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MR. EWING: Good morning. On behalf of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, congratulations on 152 years of FASNY. That's outstanding. A year ago I attended the ceremony here and convention, and I was introduced to President Tase. I can't thank you enough for my year as president in the partnership and teamwork that went on during that year. He said you'll hear from me every day, every week, or at least once a month, and I have to say, it was just about every day we were communicating voice or email or text. We did a lot of wonderful things this past year. We have forged the future for the associations, and this is a team effort.

At this time, I would like to call Dave Denniston on behalf of the Association of Districts and also Bill Streicher to the stage.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: So on behalf of the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, this is the team that we put together, and we travelled all the way to DC this year. Excellent job by everybody involved from all the associations. I

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2 can't thank these gentlemen, these presidents,
3 enough for what we've done. Gentlemen, on behalf
4 of the Chiefs, congratulations.

5 Ed, thank you so much for everything.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. TASE: Thank you. Thanks again.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. TASE: It's the little things like that
10 that really touch me, but thank you very much.
11 It shows what we do is appreciated, not only
12 within our own associations, but with our
13 partners, but thank you very much to the New York
14 State Fire Chiefs.

15 We also have with us this morning, who was
16 just on the dais with us, was at our breakfast
17 this morning, the president of the New York State
18 Fire Coordinator's Association, Bill Streicher.
19 If we could give Bill a round of applause.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. TASE: New York State Volunteer Fire
22 Police Association, President Norm Davis is in
23 the room with us this morning. Norm, please
24 stand.

25 (Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you, Norm.

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MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you, Dave, and your team
for joining us continuously.

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With us today and this weekend, she's here
this morning is the president of the LAFASNY,
Kathleen Heighton, and also with us we have the
president of the Western New York Volunteer
Firemen's Association, Billy Boyd. There he is.

(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Did I miss anyone? I know we
have Angelo. The Senator recognized you -- and
Gene's partner -- but thank you very much again.
Thank you for joining us. Thank you to each and
every one of you. Let's give them all a round of
applause. This is what partnership is about.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: I would like to thank our

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2 guests. You're more than welcome to stay and
3 join us for the remainder of the conference, but
4 if you have to fly, we understand your importance
5 and your business, but thank you very much.
6 Thank you very much to each one of those. Let's
7 give them a round of applause. Thank you.
8 That's what partnership is all about.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. TASE: I am now going to introduce our
11 working team within your association, not my
12 association, but your association.

13 You have First Vice President Eugene Perry.
14 Hold the applause until the end, if you don't
15 mind.

16 Second Vice President Donald Farrell.

17 Immediate Past President John Farrell, who
18 is not with us this morning. Please keep John in
19 your prayers. He's undergoing some cancer
20 treatments, but he was with us yesterday, but he
21 went home. He was here on Tuesday, he had to go
22 home yesterday, but please keep John in your
23 thoughts and your prayers.

24 Director Jose DaRocha.

25 Director Andrew Pilecki.

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Director Michael Caron.

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Director Frank Guarino.

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Director Michael Krummenacker.

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Director Thomas Arsenault.

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And the newest member of our team, Michael

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Karashay.

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We have Diana Pfersick, Director.

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And Director Kenneth Holmes.

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This is your team of directors and

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leadership that have worked diligently every

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single day for the operation of your association.

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Let's give them a round of applause.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Also with us this morning are

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appointed officers:

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Our Secretary, John D. D'Alessandro.

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Our Treasurer, Sean Kerwin.

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My right hand young lady that keeps me on

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the straight, keeps her prayers moving for me as

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I move forward, our Chaplain, Barrie-Lyn Foster.

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Sergeant-at-Arms Juan Batta. He's working

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in the back of the room there.

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Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Eric Orr.

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Our association Counsel, the Hannigan Law

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Firm, Terry and Tim Hannigan. I saw Terry. Is
Tim in the room? There he is.

MR. HANNIGAN: Good morning.

MR. TASE: Let's give them a round of
applause.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: And the history that brought us
where we are today is our immediate past
presidents. It's their legacy that's taught me
and taught us how to move forward and not only
move forward, but don't forget the past.

Past President Gunnar Neilson. Is he with
us this morning? I know he's with us.

MR. NEILSON: I'm here.

MR. TASE: There he is in the back.

Gunnar, welcome. Welcome. Welcome.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: James H. Williams. Come on,
stand up, James.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Thank you, James.

Joseph A. Finnegan.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: David Jacobowitz is with us this

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morning.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Robert McConville.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Steven E. Klein.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: This is the history that brought

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us to where we are today that are still with us,

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but at the same time, we do not want to forget

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those that have gone before us. They're the ones

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that have left a mark also. Please, let's keep

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them in our thoughts and prayers.

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At this time, I would like to ask all past

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Board of Directors, Emeritus Reverend Wayne

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Jagow, and Thomas Krawczyk to please stand to be

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recognized.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: David Sweet, stand up.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Brian McQueen is in the back.

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Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, thank you

23

very much.

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At this time, I call on the president of

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the Board of Trustees, Marilyn Schrader, for the

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2 introduction of her officers.

3 MS. SCHRADER: Thank you, Mr. President.

4 Introductions of the trustee board:

5 Douglas Van Etten, Vice President. Please
6 stand and remain standing and hold applause until
7 the end. Marsha S. Holland, our Secretary;
8 Dennis Eickoff, Vincent M. Ammirati, Anthony
9 DeMarco, Walter Frame, James A. Interdonati,
10 Michael Kislack, Sr., Michael Lapinski, Thomas
11 McKinney, Robert J. Outhouse, Thomas Rothdiener,
12 Robert D. Sutton, Martin J. Thomas; and our
13 President, Edward Tase, Jr., sits on the Board.

14 Please recognize these men.

15 (Applause.)

16 **Past trustees:**

17 James Farrell, Past President; John P.
18 Farrell, Past President; David Blair, Past
19 President; Gerard Owenburg, Past President; Wayne
20 Butts, Past President; Steven E. Klein, Past
21 Secretary; Jose DaRocha, Past Trustee; Paul
22 O'Brien, Past Trustee; Thomas McKinney, Past
23 Trustee; Michael J. DeVittorio, Past Trustee; and
24 David Schmidt, Past Trustee.

25 Please rise.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you very much.

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AUDIENCE MEMBER: We love you, Mom.

23

(Laughter.)

24

(Applause.)

25

MR. HENCHEY: Good morning, everyone. It's

1
2 a pleasure to be here and to be able to represent
3 the FASNY Firefighters' home. I am very glad to
4 let you know that things are going well at the
5 home. For those of you that haven't heard, we
6 purchased a couple of ice cream machines that
7 were funded by gracious donations of everyone, so
8 we have an ice cream machine in the multipurpose
9 room at the home and the multipurpose building.
10 So I know that that was something that was
11 actually pushed by Past President Owenburg, and
12 it's actually come to fruition. So we'll be
13 dedicating one of those machines to you, Jerry.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. HENCHEY: I am pleased to announce that
16 we have three members of the home that are with
17 us this week, Brian Rosenhagen, Kenneth
18 Schofield, and Mike Trizinsky.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. HENCHEY: The staff that have come with
21 us this week are Sue Schwartz, Ed Barnett, and
22 Corey Simmons.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. HENCHEY: Just so everyone is aware, as
25 I indicated, things are going very well at the

1
2 home. On October 5th of this year, we're going
3 to be having the first open house at the home.
4 The open house will be comprised of a corn hole
5 tournament that is being organized by the Board
6 of Trustees and a chili cook off that is being
7 organized by the resident council. We'll also be
8 having tours of the home and of the FASNY
9 Firefighting Museum. So really looking forward
10 to that, and I hope that many of you will be able
11 to attend. We will have a booth in the exhibit
12 hall where we'll have applications for that open
13 house if you want to participate in the corn hole
14 tournament or the chili cook off.

15 In addition to that, we have a very active
16 resident council at the moment, and they have
17 created challenge coins for the home. Those
18 challenge coins will also be available and on
19 sale at our booth the remainder of the
20 convention.

21 I want to thank -- on behalf of the
22 members, I would like to thank the Board of
23 Trustees, Board of Directors, LAFASNY, and all
24 the firematic organizations across the state for
25 all the support that you've given the home,

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2

because we cannot do what we do at the home

3

without your support.

4

Thank you very much.

5

(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you for taking care of our

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residents.

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Thank you very much.

9

Keith does a great job in keeping that

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place under control. He has 15 trustees that he

11

tries to rail in sometimes. It's all about

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teamwork. Thank you very much.

13

At this time, I would like to call upon

14

Secretary John D'Alessandro to introduce our

15

keynote speaker.

16

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Good morning.

17

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: It's my distinct

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pleasure and honor to introduce our keynote

20

speaker today.

21

Paul Combs is a cartoonist, illustrator,

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and a firefighter/EMT. His artwork is renowned

23

for conveying serious fire service messages in a

24

humorous way. He has been published worldwide in

25

magazines, books, and corporate safety training

1
2 materials and has graced the back cover of our
3 very own Volunteer Firefighter magazine many
4 times. He is the editorial cartoonist for Fire
5 Engineering Magazine and is the author of the
6 Drawn by Fire series, Drawing Lines: The Art of
7 Making a Difference, and is the illustrator of
8 the bestselling children's book series, Sprinkles
9 of the Fire Dog.

10 Paul joined the fire service in 1995 and
11 has been a fire service instructor since 2000.
12 He retired from the City of Bryan, Ohio, Fire
13 Department with the rank of Lieutenant and served
14 as an EMT, hazmat technician, and an instructor
15 for the City of Bryan Fire Training Academy.
16 Paul is an FDIC presenter, keynote speaker, and
17 hands-on-instructor. In 2018, Paul was awarded
18 the prestigious ISFSI George D. Post Instructor
19 of the Year award.

20 Yes, as impressive as his credentials are,
21 the thing I am happiest to say is that he is a
22 brother firefighter and a friend.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, I give you our 2024
24 keynote speaker, Paul Combs.

25 (Applause.)

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MR. COMBS: Thank you for that. Good morning, everyone.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. COMBS: Thank you for welcoming a Buckeye to the great state of New York.

(Laughter.)

MR. FARRELL: Go Bucks.

MR. COMBS: A couple of months ago I did a keynote in Michigan, and I was booed at that, so thank you for not booing me.

(Laughter.)

MR. COMBS: We're going to talk this morning about bricks. I'm a firm believer that when we came into the fire service we were all handed a brick. We raised our right hand. We took that oath. We put our left hand out, and we received a brick. Metaphorical brick, yes, but a brick nonetheless to build on that wall of fire service legacy, to make it longer, stronger, taller. It's our sacred duty as firefighters to continue to build on that legacy, and we're going to talk about that this morning, but before we get there, I want to take you on a little journey of just how improbable it is that I'm actually

1
2 standing up here in front of you today.

3 In 2006, Dr. Burt Clark gave me a call and
4 asked if I would do a class with him at the
5 National Fire Academy called the Art and Science
6 of the Fire Service. Now if you don't recognize
7 this, this is actually in an E building of the
8 National Fire Academy. He said it would be no
9 big deal. I never attended the National Fire
10 Academy. At this point, I had never even been a
11 public speaker other than teaching a class to
12 maybe 5 to 10 firefighters. So the first time
13 that I would give a speech would be at the
14 National Fire Academy. That's like starting a
15 quarterback on Monday night football, but Dr.
16 Clark would not give me any information. He said
17 he wanted this to be organic, and that it was,
18 again, no big deal. So I arrived to Emmitsburg.
19 I go through all the post 9/11 security, get on
20 campus, and I go see the auditorium that he was
21 referring to. This is the no big deal room. The
22 historic auditorium at the National Fire Academy
23 holds around 400 people, and this was in fact
24 going to be the symposium for the executive fire
25 officers. I didn't even eat that night. My

1
2 stomach sank. I am not a public speaker. I live
3 with a fear of doing this exact thing. I had no
4 way of preparing for this event, and when I saw
5 this, I immediately tried to think of a million
6 ways to get out of it. I laid awake all night
7 long, and at one point even thought about packing
8 and leaving the National Fire Academy, except
9 there's a curfew, and I would be detained at
10 security. So the next morning came. I go up on
11 stage, and it's packed with 400 plus firefighters
12 dressed to their finest, they put a lapel mic on
13 me. I've never been mic'd up before. Dr. Clark
14 introduces me, and I say hello, and it echoes
15 through the auditorium. I think I peed my pants
16 a little.

17 (Laughter.)

18 MR. COMBS: Apparently, I did a really good
19 job. Even this photograph makes it look like I
20 knew what I was doing. I do not remember a
21 moment of giving that speech. An hour long
22 program I do not remember. That's how hard the
23 fear had gripped me, but I must have done a good
24 job, because they asked me to come back the next
25 year to talk for the Executive Fire Officer

1
2 Symposium Banquet, which I reluctantly agreed to
3 do. Still had no idea how to prepare for being a
4 public speaker. I showed up to that event just
5 as afraid, if not more so, than the first time,
6 except this time I walked that evening into the
7 banquet and realized they have an open bar. I
8 thought a glass of wine would help calm nerves.
9 By the time Dr. O'Neil began giving his open
10 remarks, I was two glasses into that open bar.
11 By the time Dr. Clark introduced me, I was three
12 glasses and starting my fourth into that open
13 bar. I floated to the podium where I was
14 supposed to talk. I was to give a 30 minute
15 presentation on my work and the creation process,
16 and my presentation went something like this.
17 Thank you for the honor of being here. I'm
18 honored to be here. I don't really like talking
19 about my work, but thank you so much for the
20 honor. Thank you. That was my 30 minute
21 presentation. I floated back through the crowd
22 relieved and humiliated that it was over. To
23 their credit, they were great. They understood
24 the train wreck I was before getting into the
25 wine, but that's how fear can stop you from doing

1
2 things. The first time I made a promise to God
3 if he got me through the first one, I would never
4 speak to another living soul for the rest of my
5 life. This time I made a promise to myself that
6 I would never do any public speaking whatsoever,
7 a promise that I kept to myself for almost four
8 years, but there's power in the word yes, and it
9 took a life moment for me where I could have been
10 severely injured, or even killed, to realize just
11 how precious this thing called life is, and it's
12 too short, and it's too precious to hide behind
13 insecurities. It's too precious to hide behind
14 fears. So I began saying yes to things that
15 terrified me, to things that I was apprehensive
16 to do, things like becoming a USO volunteer. In
17 2011, the National Cartoon Society, who's been
18 working with the USO since World War Two, got a
19 group of cartoonist together, and we were going
20 to start going on USO tours to entertain the
21 troops. I did that for 12 years. Again, I'm not
22 a soldier. Going into war zones is not a
23 comfortable thing. A lot of those opportunities
24 came with public speaking and also drawing live
25 caricatures, which I had never done before. Say

1
2 yes. Say yes got me in opportunities like this.
3 Again, that's the only time that I draw live
4 caricatures, and one thing that I can say about
5 this, there is certain faces on this planet that
6 beg to be drawn.

7 (Laughter.)

8 MR. COMBS: This was an airman in
9 Kyrgyzstan before we fly into multiple trips that
10 we would go into Afghanistan, and he kept a smile
11 through the entire process, but when we talk
12 about building the legacy and using the bricks
13 that you were given, I was given a brick that
14 said use your talent for something greater than
15 yourself, to go into a war zone, to be
16 uncomfortable for three weeks, to be nonstop
17 sleep and nonstop travel to bring smiles like
18 this to airmen and our soldiers and to the
19 military hospitals we would go to. One of a
20 first tour, and they would always start you on a
21 domestic tour first before you went
22 international, was in San Diego to a military
23 hospital, and at that point I was just going to
24 draw cartoons. I never even considered drawing
25 live caricature, and they asked if I would go

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2 into the room of a burned soldier, and he just
3 wanted some company. So I walk in, and he was a
4 badly burned 19 year old young man, and he was
5 bandaged, except for his face, which was again,
6 badly burned, and I sat down, I introduced myself
7 and told him what I did. I was like, do you have
8 kids, I can draw a cartoon or something for your
9 kids that you can show. He goes no, can you do
10 portraits? I was like, I can do portraits. He
11 goes, I don't want anything silly. I want you to
12 draw me just as I am. This was a young man that
13 had 90 percent of his face burned. So I agreed
14 to it, and for the next 15, 20 minutes I sat
15 there and drew an exact portrait of this young
16 man, and we talked sports. He talked about his
17 kids. He talked about how this fight was going
18 to be the fight of his life and that he was up
19 for the fight, and at the end of it, he asked to
20 see the drawing. So I handed it to him. He
21 reached out with this bandaged hands. He nodded,
22 stared at it for a minute, laid it down, and just
23 kind of gave me the fist bump. He goes, thank
24 you. For the past three months no doctor or
25 nurse would give me a mirror. He goes, this is

1
2 the first time I've seen my face. My first
3 thought was, you rat bastard --

4 (Laughter.)

5 MR. COMBS: (Continuing) -- but I realized
6 the comfort that I had just given him. That had
7 given him some type of closure that he had been
8 dealing with for three months. Put yourselves in
9 opportunities where you can say yes for you can
10 make a difference in the lives of others, but
11 because I said yes to opportunities like the USO,
12 I knew it was time to try to deal with the fear
13 of public speaking. So in 2014, I agreed to do a
14 class with my buddy, retired Captain Seattle Mike
15 Gagliano, with the South Carolina Firemen's
16 Conference, called the Passionate Cartoons at the
17 time, and it's where I would do a live cartoon.
18 Mike would do his public speaking. If you've
19 ever heard Mike Gagliano speak, you realize that
20 is his tool. He is a phenomenal public speaker,
21 but the whole point of this being that you have a
22 passion for the fire service, and there are
23 multiple ways to express that. Mine is through
24 art. Mike's is through public speaking, but
25 again, getting up in front of a group and

1
2 speaking, but because I said yes to that
3 opportunity, I was asked to be part of a small
4 roundtable, and how many of you recognize the
5 gentleman in the middle of the group? Chief Al
6 Rosini. You know that moment where you said it
7 hurt and you realize how you got there, that's
8 the look on my face right there, but Chief Rosini
9 was going on with his antidotes, his colorful
10 antidotes that he does, and if you can see on my
11 lap, there's a small little book. I travel
12 everywhere with a small sketchbook, because I
13 never know when ideas are going to hit, and they
14 bounce around in my head, and they drive me
15 insane until I can actually do something about
16 it. So I carry this book with me. Chief Rosini
17 starts talking about Jesus wrapped in a tortilla.
18 I had no idea what he was talking about, and I
19 must have had that look on my face, because he
20 motioned for my book, and he drew this sketch in
21 there, and then he signed it. I have no idea to
22 this day what Jesus in a tortilla means, but I
23 cherish this small sketch that he put in there,
24 because I said yes to that opportunity. The next
25 year I said yes to applying to FDIC to be an

1
2 instructor, and from that point, I did probably a
3 couple of hundred different speaking engagements,
4 every single time regretting it, every night
5 before the event thinking of ways to get out of
6 it. You have no idea how many times I got the
7 flu in my head, but it's about passion, and we'll
8 talk a little bit more about passion here in a
9 few minutes, but it's that passion that drives me
10 passed that obstacle, that allows me to get up in
11 front of people like you and speak, because I
12 have that passion with my work, and I want my
13 work to inspire other people and my story to
14 inspire other people, but because of that journey
15 and being able to say yes to those moments, I
16 found myself on the stage at FDIC accepting ISFSI
17 Instructor of the Year Award, then a year later,
18 keynoting FDIC's Wednesday ceremony with 8,000
19 people in attendance and being telecast across
20 the world. I had the flu that morning.

21 (Laughter.)

22 MR. COMBS: I say none of this to brag,
23 folks. Brothers and sisters, this is about using
24 your passion and about doing something with the
25 brick you were handed when you joined the fire

1
2 service. I share this story with you, because I
3 want you to understand just how improbable of a
4 journey that is for someone who is terrified of
5 being where I am today. It's about the power of
6 saying yes to opportunities.

7 This is a photograph of my department's
8 first true firehouse. It stood for 130 years
9 before being replaced 15 years ago. As a matter
10 of fact, when I started the fire service in 1995,
11 we were still utilizing this building. This was
12 all the admin at the time, and the firehouse had
13 been attached to it to the left of the building.
14 Even that large opening you see at the bay door
15 in the back was our heavy rescue's bay at the
16 time, which was the bay that held the horses at
17 one point, but I love what this firehouse
18 represents, because when we tore it down, I went
19 over to this one corner, and I picked up a
20 cornerstone brick, and as someone who thinks
21 visually, I loved what that represented, because
22 it still had the marks and the scars on the brick
23 from the mason's hammer, that it was built by men
24 with dedication in a community that serviced the
25 community, and I loved that community. That

1
2 brick represents a foundation of strength and
3 integrity, stability. My wife and I just
4 purchased a house two blocks from this old
5 firehouse that's 150 year's old this year, and
6 we're going to turn that into an art gallery.
7 Being a lover of history, we started diving into
8 the history of this house, and we realized that a
9 civil war union surgeon had moved to Bryan after
10 the war and had built that house to become the
11 first surgeon in our community. He also was a
12 volunteer firefighter, and he helped build this
13 house, this firehouse. The house that we just
14 purchased was also used for the underground
15 railroad. We have found hidden stairwells
16 underneath this house, and he went on to become
17 the leader of the state of Ohio's surgical
18 community. He started using your brick. What
19 kind of legacy did this man leave behind?

20 In 2001, I attended my very first FDIC.
21 How many of you recognize this gentleman standing
22 to my left? Chief Rick Lasky. He gave a keynote
23 speech that spring about having pride and
24 ownership in your department. I don't know about
25 anyone else in that audience, but I think the

1
2 ground was actually moving a little for me. He
3 moved me that much with his words. He handed me
4 a brick that day that said you have a passion and
5 you have a talent, do something with it. Don't
6 keep it to yourself.

7 I'm an artist by trade. I've been an
8 artist since I could hold crayons, so I knew that
9 that was a tool that I could use for the fire
10 service. When I first joined the fire service in
11 '95, the first person I met was Lieutenant Roger
12 Lutz. He was the Marlboro man, tall, slender,
13 chain smoked. He's the guy that taught me how to
14 drink coffee. I never drank coffee before. The
15 first thing you get taught in my firehouse, it's
16 a combination department, to make coffee. And if
17 you make it wrong, you make another pot. I
18 idolized this man, it's no wonder I don't chain
19 smoke, but I walk in, and it was a time where you
20 could still smoke in the firehouse. He's up
21 against our back bay door. I walk up and
22 introduce myself to him. He shakes my hand, and
23 he goes, don't mess this up. I'm paraphrasing
24 there, he did not say mess.

25 (Laughter.)

1
2 MR. COMBS: But what he meant was, do not
3 mess up this sacred service. Take it seriously.
4 Have that pride. Take ownership in this
5 department. His first words to me, do not mess
6 this up. What an amazing thing to say to a young
7 firefighter. What an amazing foundation to lay
8 for a young firefighter, don't mess this up. He
9 was that first and last out man. He was the
10 strongest individual I'd ever met. He would get
11 down on his hands and knees and teach you any
12 drill, and he'd be the first to kick you in the
13 ass when you did something wrong. I idolized him
14 so much that the first drawing I ever did in the
15 fire service was a portrait of him.

16 In 2008, we got a call that Roger Lutz had
17 taken his own life. We did not see that coming.
18 We all had pieces of the puzzle afterwards, but
19 we did not see that coming, and it took a few
20 years as a firefighter, as an artist, to deal
21 with that, to come up with something that I could
22 say that would be meaningful in his death, and I
23 drew this cartoon. I've been thinking suicide,
24 please help, and I published, and like a lot of
25 my work when it gets published, I don't get a lot

1
2 feedback. Sometimes the feedback I do get is
3 more spirited, but this time I received an email
4 from a Chief from Illinois, and he said they had
5 a female firefighter that had been going through
6 some rough marital issues at home. She had some
7 really bad calls strung in a row, and her partner
8 had a near line of duty death, and she was
9 spiraling downward. They tried interventions.
10 They tried different things. They could not
11 reach this young lady until one day she walked
12 into the Chief's office, closed the door, handed
13 him her phone, and it had this cartoon on it, and
14 the words that she could not start, she used this
15 cartoon to start the conversation, and I read
16 that email with pride, not because of anything
17 that I had done, it's because Lieutenant Lutz is
18 still saving lives. He put a brick in my hand
19 when he passed away, and he said, don't let my
20 life be for nothing. Carry on my legacy.

21 One of the things I love to do when I go to
22 other firehouses is the first thing I do is I try
23 to find the photographs on the wall. Show of
24 hands here, who has photographs of old fires and
25 old firefighters on your walls at your firehouse?

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(Audience complies.)

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MR. COMBS: Oh, great show of hands. I love that. That is our history. That's our passion, right? You walk in, those are the great fires, the memorial apparatus, and the firefighters who made a difference. I doubt that any photographs on those walls are firefighters who just mailed it in. No, those are sacred areas.

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So I ask you, when you walk out of the firehouse for the very last time, or you leave the fire service -- and there is a difference -- You could be retired and still be in the fire service. Will there be a void left in your absence where you earned a spot on that wall? Have you used your brick?

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And I don't know how many times I've put this up here, but it still chokes me up. This is my best friend, EJ Mascaro. We lost EJ in 2017 to an off duty car accident. EJ was an Iraq war veteran of two and a half tours, Purple Heart recipient, Bronze Star recipient. When he left the army, he pursued his lifelong dream to be firefighter. He started as a volunteer in Erie,

1
2 Pennsylvania. He went to Charleston and then
3 finally to North Charleston. He became an
4 On-Scene Training Associates instructor, the same
5 group that I'm with, and also an MPIC hands-on
6 training instructor. EJ had an amazing passion
7 for the fire service. He was also a tremendous
8 pain in the ass.

9 (Laughter.)

10 MR. COMBS: And anybody that knew him would
11 agree to that. I said that a couple of months
12 ago in South Carolina and got an amen from the
13 audience because they knew him, but in 10 years
14 the difference he made in the fire service. He
15 was on a skyrocket trajectory in the fire service
16 to be one of those celebrity -- and I say that
17 with air quotes -- but he was going to be a fire
18 celebrity, and it wasn't from any service
19 ambition, he loved the fire service that much.
20 He called everybody brothers and sisters. Not
21 because it was the thing to say, it's because he
22 believed in his heart, and he wore his emotions
23 on his sleeve.

24 It's about passion, brothers and sisters.
25 It's about passion, and my guess is everybody

1
2 here this morning is thinking about somebody in
3 their life that has made that difference in them,
4 that handed them a brick in the fire service to
5 use, and I dare each of you to live up to that
6 legacy and to their representation and to the
7 brick they put in your hands. I dare myself
8 every day, and most days I don't live up to that,
9 but I never stop trying, and whether it be with a
10 ladder on a fire engine or by the tip of a pen,
11 I'm never going to stop trying, because it is my
12 duty to live up to that legacy and to use that
13 brick that they handed to me.

14 Of all the cartoons that I've done over the
15 past years, and it's upwards over 800 cartoons at
16 this point, this one is my favorite, as this
17 symbol owes you nothing, but if you dedicate
18 yourself to it, it will give you absolutely
19 everything. I am living proof of this. There is
20 absolutely no reason I should be standing here
21 today, and the obstacles I have made myself
22 overcome. I can draw a lot. A lot of people can
23 draw, but because I gave my passion and I gave my
24 talent to this symbol, it has allowed me to do
25 some amazing things. I found my boots all over

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the world as a USO entertainer. And again, up

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here in front of you today, because I have a love

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for this symbol, and I have a love for the fire

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service, and I use that passion.

6

We were all given a brick when we entered

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the fire service. We came in -- and I don't care

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if you're career. I don't take if you're

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volunteer or anything in between -- you took that

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oath, and you reached out that left hand, and a

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brick was laid in there, to build on that wall of

12

legacy. Again, to make it longer, stronger,

13

taller. To build on that legacy. The people

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that came before us with the broad shoulders that

15

we're still building on today.

16

So I ask you, what will you do with the

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brick that you were given? Some of us grabbed

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that brick, we took it to the wall, we put it

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firmly in mortar, we turned around, and we said,

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may I have another? And my guess is most of you

21

in here have done the same or you wouldn't be

22

here today. There are those that got that brick,

23

and they're still carrying it around. That's

24

okay. You know, because at least they're still

25

carrying that brick around. They're still

1
2 searching for a reason to use it. The sad part
3 is, those that got the brick and they just laid
4 it down.

5 Brothers and sisters, I've handing you a
6 brick today. Build on that wall.

7 Thank you so much for having me.

8 (Standing ovation.)

9 MR. TASE: On behalf of FASNY, we say thank
10 you for your leadership and what you've done for
11 us.

12 MR. COMBS: Thank you so much.

13 MR. TASE: Thank you again.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. TASE: Thank you again so very, very
16 much. We really appreciate it.

17 I heard Paul speak in Myrtle Beach, South
18 Carolina back in June when John and Andrew and I
19 made that trip, and he talked about that red
20 brick, and I think some of the trustees and some
21 of the past presidents may remember when we
22 started the campaign to build the new
23 firefighters' home, we had a Styrofoam red brick
24 that we built the foundation on, that Styrofoam
25 red brick.

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Anybody here remember that Styrofoam red brick? That's where the red brick comes from. It reminds me of that, and it showed me that this association is on the right path for the future.

Thank you, Paul, for your message this morning.

At this time, I would like to call upon Chairman of the convention, Don Farrell.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you, Ed.

Good morning, everyone.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. FARRELL: It's a pleasure to be here as the convention chairman. I'm still wondering why I was asked to be the convention chairman. I can't figure it out yet, but it's a job I certainly enjoy doing.

Niagara Falls has been great to FASNY for the past two years. We look forward to seeing everybody tonight at the block party. I can't thank you all enough for coming.

Our convention for next year will be moving out to Long Island, going to Hauppauge at the Hyatt Regency, August 7th through 9th. We look forward to seeing everyone out there.

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Here with us today we have Debra Tassone from Discover Long Island, and she's going to talk a little bit about Long Island.

Debra?

MS. TASSONE: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MS. TASSONE: Thank you all for inviting me here to participate in your celebration, and congratulations Mr. Tase, Mr. Perry. Thank you, all of you, for all the services that you provide.

My name is Debra Tassone. I'm with Discover Long Island, and I am here to welcome all of you to coming to Long Island next year for your next FASNY event, staying at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Long Island. So I think I have a lot of fellow Long Islanders in the crowd here. So with easy access with our three Long Island airports, two ferries, the Long Island Railroad, you will come to a destination that is something for everybody. If you haven't been there, it's beauty. One hundred and twenty miles long of just breathtaking picturesque scenery. To the north is the Long Island Sound. To the south you

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2 have the atlantic ocean, and in between you have
3 a blend of quaint towns, beautiful villages, some
4 bustling cities, and you can experience the gold
5 coast with inspiring mansions, castles, and
6 arboretums. You can enjoy the sun with our Fire
7 Island beaches, and I talked to some of you
8 yesterday on your love for Fire Island. You can
9 sip your way through wine country. There are
10 distilleries and breweries. You can walk through
11 the Hamptons, and you can even go to the end,
12 which is --

13 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Montauk.

14 MS. TASSONE: (Continuing) -- Montauk
15 Point. So I know we do have big shoes to fill
16 here, being here in Niagara Falls in its beauty.
17 If you got to see the illumination last night, or
18 be sure to see it if you haven't. It's
19 wonderful, but Discover Long Island is here to
20 partner with you and make your event next year
21 successful, and we have a real short video for
22 you all to see just so you can see the beauty of
23 Long Island, and I hope to see you all there next
24 year.

25 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you very much. Thank you
for being with us this morning.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: It will be a great time, as
FASNY conventions are always a great time.

At this time, I will call upon Chaplain
Barrie-Lyn Foster for our Annual FASNY/LAFASNY
Memorial Service.

Barrie-Lyn, the podium is yours.

(Whereupon, the memorial service was
conducted.)

CHAPLAIN FOSTER: Please stay put, next is
the Heroes Awards.

(Whereupon, Freeport Fire Department posted
the Colors.)

MR. HALL: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. HALL: Welcome to the 2024 Firefighter
and EMS Provider of the Year Awards. President
Tase, Vice President Perry, Vice President
Farrell, FASNY officers, LAFASNY officers,
Reverend Clergy, delegates, and members and
distinguished guests, I would like to welcome
everyone to the 2024 FASNY Heroes Awards

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Ceremony, sponsored by VFIS.

It's an honor to stand here before you this morning as chairman of the Firefighter of the Year Committee to present the 2024 Firefighter of the Year Award.

At this time, I would call upon the Color Guard -- Oh, we've already done that --

The EMS award, Wendi, can you please come forward?

MS. WALKER: Thank you, Larry. Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MS. WALKER: President Tase, Vice Presidents Perry and Farrell, and distinguished guests, my name is Wendi Walker. I am the Chairman of the EMS Committee. I am from Niagara County. I would just like to introduce my committee members. I have my co-Chair here, David Simmons. He's from Delaware County. Royer Pfersick from Monroe County. Angela Outhouse, Westchester County. Jason Hay, Ontario County. Tom Goyer, Oneida County, and Carl Turner from Hamilton County.

Unfortunately, due to circumstances that

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2 were not within our control or theirs, the Stony
3 Point Ambulance Corp was not able to be here with
4 us today. However, I am going to read the letter
5 that they submitted that earned them the EMS
6 Provider of the Year Award.

7 We will make arrangements to have that
8 delivered to them and that they do get it.

9 "On the afternoon of July 9, 2023, Rockland
10 County was put to the test as the forecast had
11 said that there would be a storm coming through
12 the county. However, no one could have predicted
13 what would lie ahead. The storm ended up dumping
14 torrential downpours from slow moving showers and
15 thunderstorms, brought six to nine inches of rain
16 in about three hours over the most severely
17 impacted locations during that afternoon and
18 early evening. This rainfall occurred over
19 already saturated grounds from recent rainfalls.
20 The Stony Point Ambulance Corps was dispatched
21 just after 3:20 p.m. to the top of Perkins
22 Memorial Drive, Bear Mountain, for a reported
23 rescue of two lost hikers with the potential of
24 up to six hikers involved. The initial duty crew
25 consisting of EMT Darren Cupo, EMT William

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2 Delahanty, and Youth Corp member Vincent Orfini
3 began responding. Training Officer Evan Humphrey
4 signed in and responded in his own vehicle. A
5 second crew of Lieutenant Gianna Punzi and EMT
6 Tara Bertellino began assembling. While
7 responding and the updated conditions, training
8 Officer Humphrey requested a third crew start
9 assembling, which consisted of EMT Allison Spong
10 and driver Kenneth Hoyt.

11 While responding, EMT Humphrey requested
12 the third crew start heading into the scene. As
13 he got to the top of Perkins Memorial Drive
14 first, he realized the gravity of the situation
15 quickly. Conditions were deteriorating rapidly,
16 there was water up to the door handle of his
17 vehicle car. At this point, EMT Humphrey had
18 established EMS command.

19 The road conditions were soon becoming
20 unpassable, but ambulances were needed at the top
21 of the road. The road was crumbling as the rain
22 came down. Boulders were falling off the
23 mountain. The first ambulance arrived, and the
24 crew began the descent into where the patients'
25 were reported. With weather conditions

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2 deteriorating, the rescue now was of a time
3 sensitive matter. As the second and third
4 ambulances arrived, the crew members were put
5 into a staging area for a brief period. The
6 dispatch center had advised the incident
7 commander that the road had washed away, and
8 there may be no way out for the crews and other
9 emergency personnel on scene. While EMS IC
10 Humphrey was at the fire command post with State
11 Park Police, they were discussing the different
12 routes that could be taken. Other agencies were
13 asked to respond to the bottom of the mountain to
14 assist. There were no other units that were able
15 to get up the mountain to where they were
16 located, which took away the advanced life
17 support being able to help. Also, there were
18 issues on the Palisades Parkway preventing ALS
19 from even making it to the bottom of Perkins
20 Memorial Drive. There was 10-year-old that was
21 brought up first and was carried for nearly two
22 miles in the arms of Thiells Fire Department by
23 Second Assistant Chief Jeff Kahn. EMT Spong
24 began assessing the child in one of the
25 ambulances and was deemed to be in critical

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2 condition. EMT Spong was with the kid the entire
3 time providing patient care with Lieutenant
4 Punzi. With the conditions of the road unknown,
5 the New York State Park Police offered to use
6 their four wheel drive pickup truck with a cap on
7 it. With no other choice at the time, EMT Spong
8 and Lieutenant Punzi put the backboard in the
9 back of the pickup truck, climbed in themselves
10 with nothing to restrain themselves, and began
11 the descent to the bottom of the mountain. They
12 were able to make it to the bottom after a very
13 careful route taken by the park police, and the
14 patient was turned over to a waiting ambulance.
15 Stony Point handed off the boy to Peekskill and
16 Cortlandt first responders, who took him to
17 Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.

18 Both EMT Spong and Lieutenant Punzi showed
19 the true meaning of what patient care is all
20 about. Then the Thiells Fire Department and
21 Stony Point Fire Department headed down to where
22 the dad was, using a rope system to secure
23 everyone as they climbed. He was in much worse
24 shape. Rescuers found him 50 to 100 feet down
25 the mountain from the trail. Fire department

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2 personnel set up rope systems to hold on to while
3 they were traversing over waterfalls that were
4 created by the rain. It would take hours to
5 secure the father to get him into transport. EMT
6 Orfini worked with the fire department to
7 stabilize him without access to more advanced
8 equipment or a paramedic. Once the father was
9 carried out by the volunteer firefighters, he was
10 assessed and treated in the back of the
11 ambulance. It was relayed to us that the
12 ambulance would be able to get out if they
13 followed the same travel path the park police
14 used. Once down the mountain, no ALS available.
15 The crew members, EMT William Delahanty and
16 Darren Cupo, and the father, began to make their
17 way to Westchester Medical Center providing the
18 best care possible.

19 While all this was going on, the remaining
20 EMTs, Tara Bertellino, Kenny Hoyt, and Vincent
21 Orfini were assessing the remaining nine
22 Appalachian Trail hikers that were fine, but were
23 trapped in the park. These subjects were put
24 into the remaining two ambulances on scene where
25 they were then provided with a ride to get them

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2 to a hotel so that they had shelter.

3 The Stony Point Fire Department, the
4 Thiells Fire Department, and Stony Point
5 Ambulance Corp began to make the long, rigorous
6 travel down the mountain to figure out how they
7 could get home themselves. Along the way, all
8 the first responders came across a Woodbury fire
9 truck and ambulance, along with the state police,
10 trying to rescue about 40 people whose vehicles
11 were stranded in the flooded waters at the Long
12 Mountain Circle. Stony Point and Thiells
13 firefighters donned wet suits and swift-water
14 gear. The Stony Point EMTs assessed all the
15 families on scene. Everyone was relatively fine.
16 The EMTs gave out granola bars and Gatorade to
17 the people who had been stranded there for many
18 hours.

19 The Stony Point and Thiells crews continued
20 the caravan toward home, following a path to
21 avoid closures. They headed over the Bear
22 Mountain Bridge, up to Route 9D into Putnam
23 County, down Route Nine to the Tappan Zee Bridge.
24 They dropped off the hikers at the West Gate Inn
25 in Nyack, and they all headed home themselves.

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The entire event took approximately seven hours from beginning to end.

That being said, I am recommending the Stony Point Ambulance Corp for EMS Providers of the Year, Evan Humphrey, Gianna Punzi, Allison Spong, Vincent Orfini, Kenneth Hoyt, Tara Bertellino, William Delahanty, and Darren Cupo as the BLS Providers of the year.

Respectfully submitted by John M. Waite, the Captain."

(Applause.)

MR. HALL: I have a special guest here today. Some people -- We used to do this years ago -- do it again. We have with us from the -- 64 years ago this gentleman was awarded this firefighter of the year, Don Brown of West Carthage Fire Department.

(Applause.)

MR. HALL: We also have another firefighter of the year with us. From 2001, Don Farrell, Cataract Hose Company Number Two.

(Applause.)

MR. HALL: This year the Firefighter of the Year Committee consisted of the following

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2 members: Vice Chairman Thomas Pasquale, of
3 Ossining, New York; Robert Fritsche, McKenzie
4 Farrell of Ossining, New York, in Westchester
5 County; Peter Holmes of Rome, New York in Oneida
6 County; Bill Murray of Bay Shore, New York, in
7 Suffolk County; James Riester of North Tonawanda,
8 New York, in Niagara County; and I'm Lawrence
9 Hall, Jr., of West Carthage Fire Department in
10 Jefferson County. Committee liaison is Mike
11 Karashay of Saugerties.

12 At this time, I call upon -- Oh, I have to
13 read the letter first.

14 Official department submission. FASNY
15 Firefighter of the Year Committee regarding
16 Firefighter Petros Mestheneas.

17 "On April 1, 2024 -- I think that's 2023 --
18 at 11:09 a.m., the Freeport Fire Department was
19 alerted for a automatic alarm for 30 Commercial
20 Street. The building is a 30,000 square foot
21 commercial building housing an ambulance company.
22 They house and repair their large fleet of over
23 30 ambulances. As fire department units were
24 responding, they received a second source
25 reporting a vehicle on fire.

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2 Units arriving on the scene found smoke
3 showing from the rear of the building. They
4 began to stretch the first line. The line moved
5 into the fire building and began to operate.
6 They had two firefighters from Truck One with
7 them. As the line was operating, the two
8 firefighters moved off the line to search the
9 offices near the front of the complex.

10 They were aware the building was occupied
11 by workers, as we had received the second source
12 with the additional information. As the two
13 firefighters initiated their search, conditions
14 deteriorated. This caused them to become
15 disoriented. They immediately transmitted a
16 mayday. This was taking place very early into
17 the operation. There was no FAST team in place
18 yet, and additional manpower was just arriving.

19 Firefighter Petros Mestheneas had just
20 gotten dressed and responded to the mayday
21 transmission. He entered the building through
22 the front door, without the protection of a hose
23 line. The first line was operating in the rear
24 of the building.

25 A second line had been stretched to back up

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2 the first line. However, this was not in any
3 proximity to where the missing firefighters were.
4 Manpower was extremely limited and/or committed
5 to the two hand lines and firefighting
6 operations. Therefore, he was forced to initiate
7 a search for the firefighters by himself. As
8 Firefighter Mestheneas was initiating his search,
9 a second mayday transmission was made where you
10 could hear the firefighters vibralerts going off.
11 Conditions were further deteriorating with
12 explosions and fire was rapidly escalating.
13 Other firefighters arriving on the scene were
14 trying to locate other possible entry points to
15 try and access the trapped firefighters. They
16 were also getting a line in place at the front
17 entrance point. All of which, unfortunately, did
18 not happen in seconds.

19 As Firefighter Mestheneas got deep into the
20 building, he heard banging and moved his search
21 in that direction. As the banging became louder,
22 he was able to locate the first firefighter,
23 approximately 57 feet into the building in a
24 storage room. He was then able to locate the
25 second firefighter in the adjacent bathroom. He

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2 got them together and then guided them both out
3 of the building. The conditions were now extreme
4 and punishing. The fire was escalating so
5 rapidly they had to have the firefighters
6 operating the hand lines in the rear of the
7 building back out. As mentioned prior, the lines
8 were not in any proximity of the offices due to
9 the large area of the building.

10 As Firefighter Mestheneas was guiding them
11 out, one of the firefighters had already
12 exhausted his bottle and was literally holding
13 his breath as they made their way out. The other
14 firefighter's mask sucked to his face as he hit
15 the doorway. These two firefighters were
16 completely out of air and out of time. The line
17 was just getting to the front of the building
18 when Firefighter Mestheneas exited with the two
19 firefighters.

20 Had Firefighter Mestheneas not located them
21 and made the move when he did, both firefighters
22 would have run out of air. The conditions of the
23 building were untenable and not sustainable
24 without an SCBA.

25 The two firefighters were transported to

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2 Nassau University Medical Center for evaluation
3 and were released.

4 Firefighter Mesthenea's training and
5 experience kicked in. His quick and tenacious
6 skill, deliberate and disciplined actions,
7 operating by himself, in punishing conditions,
8 without the protection of a hose line, resulted
9 in the rescue and saving of two firefighters.

10 Had he hesitated at all, even by a minute,
11 the outcome would have been very, very different.

12 Respectfully submitted, Raymond F. Maguire,
13 Executive Director."

14 (Standing ovation.)

15 MR. HALL: I now call upon Mr. Giorgi of
16 the Volunteer Fire Insurance Services, aka VFIS,
17 to present the association plaque to the
18 Firefighter of the Year.

19 (Whereupon, the plaque was presented.)

20 MR. HALL: President Tase, I will now ask
21 you to step forward and present the prestigious
22 Medal of Honor to Lieutenant Petros Mestheneas.

23 MR. TASE: It is a distinct honor as
24 President of the Firefighters Association of the
25 State of New York, I present you with this

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medallion saying thank you for what you do, and I know you will continue to do for the fire service.

(Whereupon, the medallion was presented.)

MR. TASE: Thank you and congratulations.

(Applause.)

MR. HALL: Vice President Perry, I will now ask you to present the awards bar to our awardee.

MR. PERRY: Lieutenant, on behalf of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York, I present you with this Medal of Valor Bar. Wear it proudly on your uniform whenever you wear it.

(Whereupon, the Medal of Valor Bar was presented.)

MR. PERRY: Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MR. HALL: And Vice President Farrell, would you please present our awardee with a gift on behalf of the association.

MR. FARRELL: Congratulations. We do have something for you, but I don't know where they put it.

(Laughter.)

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(Applause.)

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MR. HALL: At this time, I would call upon
our Firefighter of the Year to say a few words.

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LIEUTENANT MESTHENEAS: Okay, I'll be
short. I'm not really good at this, but I am
greatly honored. It's a great honor. I am
humbled, very proud, and anything that I did is
just a product of Church Street Truck and the
many years of senior men training me and all the
training drills that we do. This is the only
reason why I do what I do, and -- Interdonati is
here. That's where I started also, he started it
all. I'm just very proud. He created this mess
so.

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(Laughter.)

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(Applause.)

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LIEUTENANT MESTHENEAS: That's it. I'm
just really honored and humbled, and it's a great
honor to be recognized, and it's a great honor to
be Lieutenant of Church Street Truck.

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(Applause.)

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MR. HALL: I now call upon President Tase
to present the department plaque to Chief Albeiro
Gonzalez of the Freeport Fire Department.

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(Whereupon, the plaque was presented.)

MR. HALL: I now call upon Chief Gonzalez
to say a few words on behalf of the department.

CHIEF GONZALEZ: Good afternoon, ladies and
gentlemen. First and foremost, thank God for
allowing us to be here today in good standing.
Starting off, on behalf of myself, my Chiefs'
office, and members of the Freeport Fire
Department, as well as all the villages in the
Village of Freeport, we would like to thank you
guys for honoring and recognizing Lieutenant
Mestheneas. Again, it was a tremendous day that
day. It was a beautiful morning and the events
that occurred, but we are very thankful that our
village has well equipped us with equipment to
keep these guys trained day in and day out, and
without that training, I highly believe that
Petros would have not been able to do -- but
thankfully, put everything aside, did what his
training taught him to do, and got those two kids
out of there, and today -- We have one of them
here today, D'Juan Matthews. We are very
thankful we still have him here in our graces.

Thank you guys again for honoring us.

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We're very humble about this. Have a blessed day.

(Applause.)

MR. HALL: Thank you.

I now call upon Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy for a few words.

MAYOR KENNEDY: Good morning, everybody.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MAYOR KENNEDY: I was asked to keep this less than 35 minutes.

(Laughter.)

MAYOR KENNEDY: So I did, I made it one page. My name is Robert Kennedy, the Mayor of the Village of Freeport. I want to congratulate FASNY for inviting us to the 152nd anniversary in this beautiful city, Buffalo, and to join our firefighters here. Back on April 1, 2023, a fully engaged structure at 30 Commercial Street, Freeport Firefighter Petros Mestheneas heroically entered the building to help locate and evacuate two firefighters that were trapped in a heavy smoke condition in the interior of the building. His fearless response helped to save the lives of these two Freeport firefighters.

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Let's give a big hand first.

(Applause.)

MAYOR KENNEDY: On behalf of the trustees, residents of Freeport, and myself, I want to thank the Lieutenant for his dedication and commitment to the firefighter community and to the residents of New York State.

I thank FASNY for recognizing Petros today for the first responder award in 2024, and he is truly deserving of this award.

God bless America, and God bless our firefighters.

Thank you very much for having me here today. I am honored to be here.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. HALL: And now the gentleman who did the submission, Raymond Maguire.

(Applause.)

MR. MAGUIRE: Thank you all. On a FASNY patch there are two words. Two of those words are educate and training, Lieutenant Mestheneas embodies those words. If it wasn't for his education and his training as a member of the

1
2 Freeport Fire Department, and as he mentioned
3 before, he joined and started his career in the
4 volunteer fire service in Port Washington, the
5 outcome would have been a lot different that day.
6 His skills, his dedication, his commitment, and
7 his tenacity is why we have those firefighters
8 standing here. Chief Gonzalez recognized one of
9 the members of the Color Guard, D'Juan Matthews,
10 is one of those firefighters. He also needs to
11 be recognized, because his training kicked in,
12 along with Firefighter LaFleur. They transmitted
13 an absolute textbook mayday. They put the
14 information out to our firefighters. They were
15 able to do it. We were in a very, very bad way,
16 because the situation was not where we had plenty
17 of people to throw at this thing. These actions
18 took place a few minutes into the arrival of that
19 alarm. When the ambulance fire started to
20 escalate, when the explosions started to occur,
21 it really put us in a very, very, very serious
22 situation, but undaunted, this man did not turn
23 back. Everybody in this room is involved in the
24 volunteer fire service. You're very dedicated to
25 it, which is a very important thing, because

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2 without that dedication, we can't pass on to the
3 newer members what it's all about to be a member
4 of the fire service, but he did that day -- We go
5 and rescue civilians, we do that all time, it's a
6 wonderful thing that we do, but when there are
7 two of our own that are in peril, it turns into a
8 whole different story. So it just takes the
9 level of what this man did to a much higher
10 level, and we're very proud. We have 348
11 firefighters in the Freeport Fire Department. We
12 have a very dedicated bunch of people, and
13 although there were complaints that were made
14 throughout the state that there's too much
15 training, we're all involved in the OSHA 1910 156
16 thing that's going on, we're all looking at that
17 very, very hard, but the bottom line is, there is
18 nothing more important than training, and I
19 commend FASNY, because on your patch it says
20 those two words that mean so much, and that's one
21 of the reasons why those two firefighters are
22 alive. Without his training, they would not be
23 here today.

24 So I really thank you very much for
25 honoring him. It's a true honor. I just want

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2 to, before I close, recognize two individuals.
3 We talked about dedication to the fire service.
4 With us today, we have Honorary Chief Joseph
5 Falco. Joseph, stand up.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. MAGUIRE: He was honored with 50 years
8 of service, 50 years of active service. Not 50
9 years on the roster, 50 years of active service.

10 (Standing ovation.)

11 MR. MAGUIRE: So you understand how
12 dedicated he is, Honorary Chief Falco was a
13 chauffeur for Engine One on 9/11. He was
14 severely injured in the collapse at the World
15 Trade Center towers, very severely injured, yet
16 he was able to get back on his feet, thank God,
17 and you know what, he never stopped with us.
18 He's still participating as an active
19 firefighter. He still gets up at 3:00 in the
20 morning, and that's a message that we need to
21 send to all the young people folks through FASNY
22 when you got people like that that almost got
23 killed on 9/11 is still out there doing it. So
24 to your credit, Chief, you're an inspiration to
25 us all. You really are.

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CHIEF FALCO: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. MAGUIRE: One more guy, who is your
guy, your chairman of the Two Percent Committee,
Chief Lee Tucholski, 56 year member, one of our
senior men. He's leading our Color Guard today.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. MAGUIRE: Thank you very much for the
time. We really appreciate it. FASNY, thank you
for what you do.

MR. HALL: Thank you once again to our
winner. His name will be placed on the plaque at
the firemen's home.

All of those members or companies who were
nominated for this year's award will have or have
already received a certificate of merit from the
Firefighters Association of the State of New
York.

I would like to thank several people for
their assistance in putting this year's program
together.

The Color Guard from the Freeport Fire
Department.

(Applause.)

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MR. HALL: The general convention committee. Don Farrell as Chairman. Don has been a great asset to me keeping me going.

The staff of VFIS for sponsoring the program again this year. We thank you. President Tase, I would like to thank you for appointing our committee again this year. It's been a pleasure working with all the members of both committees.

If I missed someone, I do apologize.

The deadline for next year's submissions is March 15, 2025.

President Tase, this concludes the 2024 Firefighter of the Year Ceremony.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Thank you very much. Thank you very much and congratulations.

Thank you very, very much, and we truly appreciate it.

And thank your department Color Guard. Thank you very much to our committee again.

We're going to continue our agenda.

The Color Guard can be dismissed.

Thank you very much to the Freeport Fire

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Department.

At this time, I would like to thank the Firefighter of the Year Committee and the EMS Committee who have done diligence for the wonderful services that they did this morning.

Thank you very much for what you do.

At this time, I would like call to the dais Ms. Cahill Zoeller from the Tunnels 2 Towers Foundation.

Please join me on the dais. Here she comes.

This is an organization that does great things. Please let's give her our attention for a few moments, please. If we could continue to have order in the room, please.

MS. ZOELLER: I'm sorry to hold everybody up to getting lunch, but I couldn't waste this opportunity to thank you guys, because Tunnel 2 Towers was founded by someone just like you all, a firefighter here in New York State, Stephen Siller, who was 34 years. He was killed on September 11, 2001. As I said, he was 34 years old. He and his wife had just purchased a home the summer before, and he had five young

1
2 children. I can give you that snapshot of
3 Stephen's life, because that directly leads to
4 the foundation to the families that we help. We
5 pay off mortgages, we build custom --

6 (Whereupon, there was excess talking in the
7 room.)

8 MS. ZOELLER: (Continuing) -- for
9 catastrophic -- first responders and military --

10 MR. TASE: Let's keep order here, please.

11 MS. ZOELLER: But it was Stephen's memory
12 and loved ones, his siblings, his childhood
13 friends, people who worked with Stephen that
14 maybe some of you all have been involved in
15 conversations like this after someone who you
16 care about has passed away suddenly, but it's in
17 Stephen's memory that the foundation was created
18 almost 23 years ago. In these years, we have
19 helped almost 1,100 families, including over 500
20 first responders for a decade now. In December
21 of 2014, we had donations that allowed the
22 foundation in response to the foundation and
23 people just like yourselves who dedicate
24 themselves to their communities and to this
25 country that in that December, Frank Siller, my

1
2 boss, was able to call three families, the family
3 of a fire captain from the Inwood Fire Department
4 in New York State and two New York City Police
5 detectives, their families who were there. All
6 three were killed in the line of duty. In the
7 last nine and a half years, donations just like
8 this and individual donations and firehouse
9 donations from folks in this room have allowed us
10 to pay off mortgages of over 500 first
11 responders, like I said, over 300 Gold Star
12 families, and we built over a hundred homes for
13 catastrophically injured military and first
14 responders. I would like to note that amongst
15 those 500 first responders, you've got folks who
16 have ultimately succumb to job related cancer,
17 ALS, 9/11 related cancer and illnesses, COVID.
18 Every time the foundation is incredibly
19 responsive that we as soon as a new illness or
20 things have changed that categorizes something as
21 a line of duty death, the foundation is right
22 there adding that recipient, their family, their
23 spouse, and their surviving children. We assume
24 that mortgage right away, whether it's the
25 mortgage, whether it's a rent payment, and we're

1
2 very proud to do, but we could not do so without
3 organizations and leadership like this group, and
4 individually in this room, families and
5 firehouses, whether it's 50/50 raffle, if it's a
6 corned beef and cabbage dinner, it really packs a
7 bunch. This donation itself and what you all do
8 is at least eight months of mortgage payment for
9 one family.

10 So I hope you feel really reaffirmed in
11 this donation, even on a personal level that the
12 Sillers and people like me who have come onboard
13 are being very smart with your dollars.

14 I'm going to add about 90 seconds to this,
15 so I'm sorry, but I would like to take the
16 opportunity to let you know about recently we
17 launched our homeless veteran program, and that
18 takes two forms, whether it's case managers who
19 are TT staff who are providing housing assistance
20 and supported services to homeless veterans.
21 Just in two years we've been able to help over
22 5,000 homeless veterans and over 1,000 children
23 of those families, and here in New York State, we
24 are going to have two properties, at least two
25 properties, in the next 18 months for homeless

1
2 veterans that will provide permanent housing and
3 full time supportive services. Nearby, just
4 about 20 miles away in Cheektowaga, and also I
5 know there's some gentlemen from Nassau County
6 who were sitting right in front of me, we are
7 also going to have property in Nassau County in
8 Island Park. That will be '25/'26, but that's
9 the kind of things this foundation does,
10 providing that financial security to families and
11 individuals, just like Stephen unfortunately left
12 almost 23 years ago.

13 So thank you again. Thank you for giving
14 me some time.

15 MR. TASE: Thank you very much. This is a
16 great foundation.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. TASE: Your Board of Directors a few
19 months ago took this to heart, took it seriously,
20 and your association made a \$10,000.00 donation
21 to this foundation to help our brothers and
22 sisters first responders and veterans throughout
23 the state, but thank you very much. And we will
24 continue our donations to this foundation.

25 (Applause.)

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MR. TASE: This is what your association
does to help one another.

At this time, I will ask for a recess for
the end of the morning session. Recess until
this afternoon.

Do I have a motion?

MR. SCHMIDT: Motion.

MR. TASE: Dave Schmidt makes a motion to
recess.

MR. EWING: Second.

MR. TASE: Scott Ewing makes a second.

We will recess until 1:30.

Thank you.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Before you go, if I can
have your attention for 20 seconds? Remember,
this is our convention, but it's also our annual
business meeting. So I'm making a very, very
very strong request that we see this room filled
up again at 1:30. We have association business
to do, important business. Grab some of your
brothers and sisters. No empty seats, please.

Thank you.

MR. TASE: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

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MR. TASE: Any opposed?

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(No response.)

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MR. TASE: So carried.

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Thank you.

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Again, recess, and back in here at 1:30,

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1:30.

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(Whereupon, the morning session was

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concluded and adjourned until 1:30 p.m.)

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MR. TASE: Good afternoon, everyone. As we

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begin our afternoon session, as you are all aware

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of the fire exits in the back. Follow me, I'll

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get you outside.

14

I would ask you to please silence your

15

paggers, your cellphones.

16

Before we begin, I want to acknowledge the

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staff -- They're not here yet, so we'll skip over

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that for now. If someone could find the staff

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for me, I would greatly appreciate it.

20

We have the video. Chris, are we prepared

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with the video?

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(Whereupon, a video was played.)

23

(Applause.)

24

MR. TASE: Great job. A lot of work goes

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into the preparation of these videos, and they

1
2 will be available once they're all finalized on
3 the web and available for you to use in your
4 recruitment efforts to the membership within
5 FASNY.

6 Thank you very much.

7 At this time, I'd like to call up Dylan
8 Reece. Dylan is our membership manager at 107
9 Washington who manages your individual membership
10 within FASNY. Dylan has some proud updated
11 benefits to share with us.

12 Dylan, it's all yours.

13 MR. REECE: I'm sure you're all wondering
14 why I called you all here.

15 (Laughter.)

16 MR. REECE: For those of you that haven't
17 met me, my name is Dylan Reece. I'm the
18 membership manager at FASNY. Me and the team
19 have been working on some great new benefits for
20 you guys. So we're trying to prepare some
21 infrastructure that's been outdated. We're also
22 trying to get some kind of new value for the
23 membership that you guys all pay for. So for
24 example, moving forward, for example, this year's
25 renewal season we're going to be trying to

1
2 transition over to a more digital way of handling
3 FASNY renewals. By doing that, we're going to be
4 giving FASNY departments the chance to designate
5 what we're calling a company manager. That
6 individual will be able to handle, manage, edit,
7 delete, and add members to their FASNY roster at
8 any time.

9 Also on top of that, my team and also
10 everybody at 107, is ready to rock and roll to
11 help you guys out with that moving forward. We
12 are very well prepared for that, and there will
13 definitely be more news to come right after --
14 Probably after the convention you guys should be
15 hearing more about it, whether that's online or
16 whatever the case may be.

17 Another new benefit that we have coming is
18 a discount on Dell products. Anybody that's
19 maybe going back to school or what the plan may
20 be, I definitely know when I was in school I
21 wished I had some kind of something to help me
22 out to get some kind of computer when I was in
23 school. So we're been working with Dell to try
24 to get you guys some kind of discount that is
25 just literally as simple as getting a discount

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code that you guys can put in at check out for those specific products.

And at the end of the day, we are here for you guys, so definitely feel free to reach out to me or reach out to anybody at 107, and we can definitely explain that further, in further depth. So definitely feel free just to reach out to us in the future.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Does anybody have any questions for Dylan?

Dylan is here. He's over in the membership booth at the convention center here. If you have any questions, feel free to ask him, but at least stop by and introduce yourself to Dylan. We appreciate that very much.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Dylan, thank you.

Next up on my agenda is something that we really all need to do, that's to say a special thanks to our staff that does the day to day operations and logistics for what we do as a membership driven organization.

And that first name, the Director of FASNY

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Operations, Andrew Doyle.

3

(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you, Andrew.

5

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And of course the next one on my list is the Director of Events and Special Projects, and if anybody doesn't know, that's April Rounds.

7

8

(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you. The next one is the Director of Information and Technology. He's hiding over here. He does all of our technology and problems with your computers, problems with the website, Chris is the go to man.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: And not with us today, but does a great job down at FASNY Firefighters Home and our building properties that we own, is our Director of Facilities, Jim Dorwood.

19

(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Then we have our Director of Human Resources, who is right now presently working with our scholarship raffles, getting the little baskets in and tagging them, handling it all, is Colleen Simo.

25

(Applause.)

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2 MR. TASE: And the Events Special Project
3 Coordinator, coming back to us shifting from the
4 credit union she worked for us at one time, and
5 now she works for us at the 107 office, is Erica
6 Mason.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. TASE: Congratulations and thank you,
9 Erica.

10 You've heard from Dylan, your membership
11 manager.

12 The other membership coordinator that is
13 not with us, but boy, she does a lot of good
14 work, and I've been to the office there, and
15 she's got piles like that on her desk of
16 membership renewals, and she gets them in as fast
17 as she can, that's Marti VanDeBogart.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. TASE: And then there's one special on
20 here that I have to recognize, and that's
21 Andrew's executive assistant. Now I have to make
22 sure, good afternoon, Lisa. She's not even in
23 here, is she? She's been haunting me all week
24 because I missed her when she was flying by, and
25 I didn't say hello, so I make sure I say it every

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time I see her now. Good morning. Good

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afternoon. Good evening. Just let her know I

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did recognize her, please. All right?

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And then we have our office business

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coordinator, who's been with us for a long time,

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and of course she's back taking care of our

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office at 107 this week, and that's Fran Connell.

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Fran does good work. Fran's been with us for

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quite some time, and she does a lot of diligent

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work.

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And then we have our staff accountant, who

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keeps our finances great and does great work. He

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tries to keep Sean under control, and sometimes I

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don't know. I've been in the office with the two

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of them working, and I think Sean has scared him

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a couple of times, Tyler Schroder. Tyler, thank

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you.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: And new to our staff is our

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recruitment coordinator, Kayleigh Marron. She's

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hiding. There she is. You can wave. You can

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wave.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: She's doing good work. She's

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starting off strong, and they're really giving her the work to do.

And back to our team, after a period of time of separation from our association, we have a Director of Development, we brought back Gina Schultz. Gina, welcome back to the team.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: We have our building facilitator who takes care of 107, keeps it clean, keeps it maintained, Albert Gregory. He's back at the office working.

The next group of individuals I'm going to mention are the ones that run around here all week long from Sunday until Sunday making sure everything is set, everything is packed up, everything is unpacked, and that's our arrangements committee: We have Jerry Mehan, Bruce Stockman, Matthew Mehan, Michael Norwood -- Unfortunately, Michael Norwood is not with us this week, because Michael Norwood decided he wanted to get married, and he's off in Wyoming -- Patrick Perry, Larry Rieben, and Natalie Rieben. These are the ones that do the work. Let's give them a round of applause.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you very much, staff.

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Thank you for what you do. Again, if you get an

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opportunity to have a conversation with them and

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thank them personally, please do that.

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At this time, I will entertain a motion to

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accept the minutes of the 2023 Annual meeting.

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MR. KRUMMENACKER: Motion.

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MR. MCKINNEY: Second.

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MR. TASE: Mike Krummenacker and Tom

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McKinney.

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We have a motion to accept.

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We have a second.

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Any questions on it?

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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: Any opposed?

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(No response.)

21

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

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I will need a motion to entertain a motion

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to accept the preferred convention agenda.

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MR. AMMIRATI: Vinnie Ammirati, I'll make

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that motion.

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MR. TASE: Vinnie Ammirati.

MR. BUTTS: I'll second it.

MR. TASE: Second by Wayne Butts.

Any questions?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

Secretary D'Allesandro, is there any
unfinished business remaining for the
association?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. President, there is
no unfinished business from the 2023 annual
meeting.

MR. TASE: Hearing none, we will move on.
Thank you.

Secretary D'Alessandro, for the
association, is there any new business to be
brought before the association?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. President, there is
no new business to be brought before the body.

MR. TASE: I will now turn the podium over

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to First Vice President Eugene Perry.

MR. PERRY: Thank you. For the purposes of a presentation, I call upon the President of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York, Edward Tase, Jr.

MR. TASE: Thank you, Gene.

As I took the oath of office two years ago, I could not help but think about all the issues that were facing the association at that time. Over the last two years, your FASNY leadership, committee members, and staff, have worked diligently to represent and advocate on issues of importance to the volunteer fire and EMS services within New York State.

Legislatively, I have had many meetings with our state and federal officials and the legislative representatives. I have also enjoyed working on legislative issues with our brother and sister fire service organizations, including the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs, the New York State Association of Fire Districts, the New York State Fire Coordinators Association, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, and the National Volunteer Fire Council.

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2 I am especially proud that we hosted the
3 Spring Recruitment Summit of the National
4 Volunteer Fire Council in Buffalo, New York, in
5 June and built a strong relationship with the
6 South Carolina State Firefighters Association
7 throughout the years. We had the distinct honor
8 to represent your association at their annual
9 convention in June. Myself, Secretary
10 D'Alessandro, and Director of Operations Andrew
11 Doyle, were their guests at their annual
12 convention in Myrtle Beach. It was a great
13 opportunity, and I thank them for that
14 partnership.

15 Our legislative team has fought hard for
16 New York to increase the tax credit for volunteer
17 firefighters. I will personally continue that
18 fight. We will also focus on VFBL and numerous
19 EMS issues. On the federal level, we led the
20 fight, and we continue to lead the fight, on the
21 OSHA 1910.156 Fire Brigade Standard in a way that
22 is achievable and effective in protecting
23 firefighters' health and safety.

24 Once again, this association has had a
25 successful year with its training programs,

1
2 including establishing a training partnership
3 with the New York Fire Chiefs. Recruit New York
4 Open House weekend was energized, and we saw many
5 departments gain new members and new recruits.
6 We look forward to an even bigger and better
7 Recruit New York 2025 on April the 26th and 27th,
8 2025. This would not be possible if not for the
9 efforts of our staff, our committees, our
10 chairpersons, and our committee members that make
11 these things happen.

12 In addition to serving the membership, we
13 must also run the organization. We have hired
14 new staff in 2024 and made some significant
15 capital improvements to both our headquarters in
16 Albany and the firefighter's home in Hudson.
17 This would not have been possible if not for the
18 dedication of our directors, our trustees, First
19 Vice President Gene Perry, Second Vice President
20 Don Farrell, Past President John Farrell, and
21 Past Vice President Chan Rivera. Their
22 collective advice, input, and counsel is what
23 makes FASNY a respected organization on the state
24 and national level. I thank each and every one
25 of you for your time and your efforts.

1
2 As my term comes to an end, I would like to
3 offer some advice to the new incoming officers.
4 The responsibility you are about to assume is an
5 important one that affects the health and safety
6 of all volunteer firefighters and first
7 responders in New York. Devote the proper time
8 and patience to make the best decisions possible.
9 I wish you all much success.

10 To all members and staff suffering from
11 health issues, I wish them healing and may they
12 find comfort in knowing that we, as a FASNY
13 family, are keeping them in our thoughts and our
14 prayers.

15 I want to thank Director of Operations,
16 Andrew Doyle, and his entire staff for keeping
17 FASNY on track. I would also want to
18 congratulate Andrew on his upcoming marriage to
19 Susannah. Congratulations.

20 I offer my thanks to my departments that I
21 have been a part of, the South Lockport Fire
22 Company and the Frontier Fire Company, for
23 enabling me to serve you.

24 Finally, I would like to immensely thank my
25 wife, Linda -- Please stand --

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: (Continuing) -- and my entire family for their understanding, their patience, and most of all, their support that provided the footing for me to hold the offices of director, vice president, and now as president.

8

Thank you, dear. I love you.

9

Thank you, everybody. Thank you very much.

10

(Standing ovation.)

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MR. PERRY: For the purposes of a motion to accept the annual report of the president, the chair recognizes Mrs. Linda Tase.

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MRS. TASE: I make a motion to accept President Tase's report.

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MR. HASELEY: Second, Neil Haseley, Niagara County Firemen's Convention Committee, is proud to be able to second the motion to accept the Past President's report as presented.

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Thank you.

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MR. PERRY: We have a motion, and we have a second.

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Are there any questions?

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(No response.)

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MR. PERRY: All those in favor?

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

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MR. PERRY: Any opposed?

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(No response.)

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MR. PERRY: The motion is carried.

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MR. TASE: Thank you, Gene.

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And now I call upon the Secretary of the Association, John D'Alessandro, for the annual report of the secretary.

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Thank you, President

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Tase.

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The noted American writer James Baldwin said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

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Much has changed in the fire service since Benjamin Franklin organized the Union Fire Company in 1736. We have gone from bucket brigades to adjustable nozzles. From horse drawn steam engines to electric fire trucks. Some might even argue that change is inevitable. Rather, I would argue that change is either acceptable or not. To make this determination, change must be viewed in the context of practicality, achievability, experience, and

1
2 tradition. Yes, even tradition. This
3 perspective is especially true in the volunteer
4 fire service. As first responders, our ability
5 to protect lives and property can change over
6 time or in just a few seconds. To remain
7 effective, we must decide on each call whether to
8 do it like we have done it before, to do it
9 differently, or even to pursue a combination of
10 the two.

11 This same challenge must also be addressed
12 by membership organizations, such as ours. As we
13 work to protect the health and safety of first
14 responders, we need to constantly balance the
15 importance of honoring tradition, while remaining
16 open to new ways of doing things. In fact,
17 change for change sake can be as destructive and
18 counterproductive as refusing to change at any
19 cost.

20 As association secretary, I am happy to
21 inform the membership that FASNY continues to be
22 viewed as one of the premier first responder
23 organizations on both the state and national
24 levels. As an example, in recent months, we have
25 led the response to the proposed changes to the

1
2 OSHA Fire Brigade Standard. These proposed
3 changes, some of which are long overdue, will
4 affect every fire department in the country, both
5 volunteer and career.

6 Since the 151st annual meeting of the
7 organization, the Board of Directors has met
8 eight times. Copies of the meeting minutes are
9 distributed and are available for review at FASNY
10 headquarters. The secretary's office also
11 retains transcripts of previous annual meetings,
12 nominating petitions, contact information of all
13 elected officers, listings of appointed committee
14 members, and copies of current corporate
15 documents.

16 In addition to the recordkeeping duties of
17 the office, the bylaws of this organization state
18 that "the secretary shall assume responsibility
19 for supervising the registration of members
20 entitled to vote and issuing voting cards,
21 ballots, or other like documents should a vote or
22 election be called at any meeting of the
23 membership." There are eight offices up for
24 election this year: Five seats on the Board of
25 Directors and three seats on the Firefighters'

1
2 Home Board of Trustees. Two of those positions
3 are being contested, FASNY's Second Vice
4 President and FASNY Director.

5 For the past 14 years, I have also served
6 as FASNY's volunteer programs coordinator. In
7 this capacity, I have assisted the recruitment
8 and retention committee in their efforts, and I
9 was responsible for the administration of our
10 state and federal recruitment grants and the
11 FASNY help college tuition reimbursement program.
12 In addition to our youth oriented recruitment
13 efforts, these programs have proven themselves to
14 be one of the most effective incentives to
15 recruit and retain young volunteer firefighters.

16 While I have enjoyed serving in this
17 capacity, I am happy to announce that leadership
18 has decided to establish a dedicated Volunteer
19 Programs Office and has hired a full time
20 volunteer programs' coordinator, Kayleigh Marron.
21 This positive change will build upon our existing
22 recruitment and retention efforts and enable us
23 to more effectively assist member departments in
24 addressing their personnel challenges.

25 As of August 1st, FASNY has 31,153 members;

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2 29,593 individuals and 1,560 organizations. This
3 is the dividend generated by the hard work of our
4 elected officers, staff, and committee people.
5 We need you to be involved if we are to continue
6 to advocate for and protect the interest of New
7 York's volunteer first responders. Join a
8 committee, attend one of the many trainings and
9 seminars, and above all, make your voice heard on
10 legislative issues that directly affect our
11 health and wellbeing. We also need you to reach
12 out to your brother and sister first responders
13 who are not currently members of FASNY. In order
14 to continue our fight for resources and
15 protections, our strength in numbers is the order
16 of the day.

17 The involvement of our membership has
18 always been the source of strength of this
19 organization, from its beginning 152 years ago.
20 It has been, and will continue to be, the reason
21 that FASNY leads the charge on all issues of
22 importance to the volunteer fire and EMS
23 services.

24 Further, we must never forget that the
25 volunteer fire service is built upon the

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dedication of trained, motivated individuals.
This is as true on the fire ground as it is in a
FASNY meeting room.

I am honored to be the secretary of our
association and am proud to be in the company of
the good men and women who are always there when
their communities need them.

Never forget, we make up that thin red line
that shields people from danger every day because
we believe all lives matter.

Be proud, serve well, and remain safe.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: John, thank you, and thank you
for your diligent report, and thank you for your
continued support and service, not only to this
association, but to the volunteer fire service.
Thank you very much. Appreciate that.

Now I call upon the treasurer of the
association, Sean Kerwin, the money man.

MR. KERWIN: So in case some of you don't
know who I am, my name is Sean Kerwin. I'm the
treasurer of FASNY. I have been for the last
three years.

1
2 It is my duty in accordance with the
3 constitution and bylaws of the Firemen's
4 Association of the State of New York, doing
5 business at the Firefighters Association of the
6 State of New York, to present you our financial
7 position for the past year.

8 So for the year ending September 30, 2023,
9 we had our financial statements and our books
10 audited by the CPA firm, Battaglia and
11 Associates, under the direction of Mr. Joseph
12 Battaglia, and I am happy to report that we
13 received an unqualified opinion from the CPA
14 firm, which is the best opinion you can receive.
15 Basically it says that our financial statements
16 are prepared in conformity with generally
17 accepted accounting principals, as set forth by
18 FASNY. If any of you are interested in this
19 report, or you're having a rough night sleeping,
20 just send me an email, I'll be more than happy to
21 send you a copy of the financial statements and
22 the auditing report with the auditor's comments.

23 Our investment portfolio, of which a
24 majority is under the discretion of the
25 foundation, continues to increase year over year.

1
2 Luckily, the market conditions until recently
3 have been very favorable, so that has continued
4 to grow.

5 And as I am sure many of you are aware, our
6 revenues are derived from donations, dues,
7 advertising, and a significant chunk comes from
8 our two percent funding. However, since my term
9 here, the revenues that are coming in have not
10 been enough to cover the operating expenses and
11 payroll expenses of the association and of the
12 home. So each year we have to appeal to the
13 foundation through a grant process to cover the
14 deficit based on those funds generated by the
15 portfolio that's under the management of Lesko
16 Advisors, and thankfully, the foundation has
17 satisfied this deficit every year for the last
18 three years.

19 Finally, under 519 of the not for profit
20 corporation, I have to provide you information as
21 members. I have to provide you information about
22 our financial position and results of operations
23 through June 30, 2024.

24 So, our assets as of that are valued at
25 \$45,396,321.00, and our liabilities at

1
2 \$3,359,864.00. There's about a 1.5 million
3 increase from last year in those two numbers.
4 Primarily, that's derived from the capital
5 project that is occurring at the home, the new
6 garage that's been built. So that has increased
7 the value of our assets, as well as we are
8 funding that project through debt financing
9 through the Bank of Green County, and that
10 naturally will increase our liability balance.

11 As of June 30th, our unrestricted revenues
12 were \$19,761,240.00; restricted revenues of
13 \$5,875.00. Our obligations and expenses for that
14 12 month period ending June 30, 2024 have
15 expenses, unrestricted expenses, of
16 \$18,968,345.00. Restricted expenses of
17 \$8,157.00.

18 The final reports from this 519 report
19 addresses membership, and as of June 30, 2024, we
20 have 31,208 paid members, and this did represent
21 a decrease from the prior year of 2,941 members,
22 which initially seemed frightening when I first
23 read it, but upon doing research, what happened
24 was, there was a number -- many duplicate
25 memberships. Whereas an individual might pay

1
2 their dues and the fire companies pay the dues.
3 So we were able to go through and clean that up.
4 So this bubble shouldn't happen again in the
5 future.

6 Otherwise, the names and places of the
7 residences of the membership can found in the
8 books at the office, 107 Washington Avenue.

9 And that concludes my report. However, I
10 want to thank these three fine gentlemen sitting
11 to the left of me and the entire Board of
12 Directors for the opportunity to serve as your
13 treasurer this year and for the last three years,
14 and hopefully, for the next 30 years into the
15 future.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MR. KERWIN: And I would be negligent if I
18 did not also thank those wonderful employees at
19 107 Washington Avenue, the business office at the
20 home, the trustees of the home, for their help,
21 cooperation, and understanding over these last 12
22 months.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. TASE: I think if we can get you

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converted to a Buffalo Bills fan, we can probably make that appointment work.

(Laughter.)

MR. TASE: He doesn't think it's worth it.

I now call upon Secretary John D'Alessandro for the purpose of explaining the election guidelines and the introduction of the candidates that will be elected.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Frankly, I don't have a clue how we do elections so.

(Laughter.)

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Only kidding. Only kidding.

This year we have, as I mentioned in my report, eight offices up for election. Six of those offices are being uncontested. So we'll go through the process that we normally do later in one of the sessions where the secretary will cast one ballot on behalf of the membership for those uncontested seats. We have two races that are contested. The first one is for second vice president, and we have four candidates. I'm reading them in order that they were selected randomly and will appear on the ballot. Wayne

1
2 Butts, Michael Caron, Kenneth Holmes, and Diana
3 Pfersick. We also have an election for a
4 director seat that is being vacated by Jose
5 DaRocha. Jose has served his term on the board.
6 There are two candidates. There were three, one
7 asked to have his name removed, so there are two
8 candidates on the ballot. In order of
9 appearance, Michael Norwood and Robert Ottaviano.
10 Elections will take place on Friday from 8:00 to
11 1:00 p.m. in the Porter/DeVeaux room. If you go
12 out of the ballroom here, make a right and sort
13 of head straight, the room is on your right hand
14 side. Same room we did it last year.

15 They'll be election inspectors. Each
16 candidate was invited to have one representative
17 during the course of the elections in the room,
18 and we've also extended an invitation to each of
19 the candidates in the contested races to have
20 somebody come up now and just give a brief
21 introduction of the candidate to the membership.

22 So I would ask if those individuals are in
23 the room to please come up at this point.

24 So just to be fair, we'll do it in the
25 order that they're going to appear on the ballot.

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So let's do second vice president first.
That would be Wayne Butts.

MR. JEWETT: Good afternoon, everybody.

MR. TASE: State your name for the
stenographer.

MR. JEWETT: My name's John Michael Jewett.
I'm from Southwestern Association of Volunteer
Firemen. I'm the Erie County vice president.

Thank you for allowing me this privilege of
nominating this fine gentleman for the office of
second vice president, Donald Wayne Butts.

Wayne started in the fire service in July
of 1975 with the Cuba Volunteer Fire Company.
During his time, he has held the offices of
president in 1995, 1998, and 2003. Wayne was
elected to the position of chief from 1989 until
1992. He was also named Fireman of the Year in
2003. Wayne has served as the chairman of the
Tractor Pull and Dairy Week for the Cuba Fire
Department. He has served on a number of
committees for Cuba, including fire prevention,
bylaws, and fundraising, just to name a few.

Wayne is a life member of the Allegany
County Firemen's Association and the Allegany

1
2 County Chiefs' Association. He was elected and
3 served as president of both associations.

4 Wayne started his way and became the
5 president of the Southwestern Association of
6 Volunteer Firemen in 2006. Wayne is still
7 instrumental in Southwestern and sits on the
8 steering, membership, and legislative committees.
9 Wayne is also a life member of the Western New
10 York Volunteer Firemen's Association. He is
11 still an active member in all of those
12 associations.

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

17 Wayne was elected as a trustee for the
18 Firemen's Home and worked his way up to president
19 of the board. During his time on the board,
20 Wayne was on committees to help improve several
21 areas.

22 I met Wayne over 15 years ago. In the last
23 10 years, I have had the pleasure to sit down and
24 really get to know him. Wayne has helped me as I
25 have made my way up the ranks of Southwestern.

1
2 Once again, at this time, I am the Erie County
3 vice president. I am happy to not only call
4 Wayne my friend, but my brother.

5 Wayne has been endorsed by Western and
6 Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen's
7 along with several others.

8 At this time, I am proud to once again
9 nominate Wayne Butts for the office of second
10 vice president of FASNY.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Thank you.

13 A representative for Mike Caron.

14 MR. NEMIER: Good afternoon, everybody. My
15 name is Rick Nemier. I'm the past president of
16 Onondaga Volunteer Firefighter's Association.

17 I would like to thank President Ed Tase,
18 First Vice President Eugene Perry, Second Vice
19 President Don Farrell, Reverend Barrie-Lyn
20 Foster, Director of Operations Andrew Doyle,
21 attorneys Tim and Terry Hannigan, Secretary John
22 D'Alessandro, the Board of Directors, the
23 trustees of the Firefighters' home, and members
24 of FASNY and guests for allowing me the
25 opportunity to introduce Northern Central's

1
2 candidate for second vice president of the
3 Firefighters' Association.

4 Mike Caron has been an active member of
5 Onondaga County Volunteer Firefighters'
6 Association since 2006. He was asked by our
7 president at that time, Dave VanMarter, if he
8 would consider becoming a director, and he
9 graciously accepted. During Mike's presidency,
10 he led the effort to increase our membership,
11 brought back training to our membership meetings,
12 and was instrumental in raising funds for a
13 stained glass window at the Firefighters' home,
14 which represents all first responders in Onondaga
15 County. During this time, I was moved into the
16 position of first vice president unexpectedly. I
17 was moved up and had Mike's two year term to
18 learn the position so I was ready to take the
19 president's job. Mike took me under his wing and
20 proved to be a great mentor to me. Because of
21 Mike's leadership skills and mentoring me, I was
22 able to take the association through some of the
23 most trying times, primarily the pandemic.
24 Mike's skill set and forethought allowed us to
25 update our bylaws, and during the pandemic Mike

1
2 had the foresight to have us start Zoom meetings
3 so that our association would still be able to do
4 our business during those troubling times.

5 The position of president, vice president,
6 and second vice president requires an individual
7 to make good sound business decisions, the
8 ability to lead by example, the ability to
9 communicate, to manage money, to embrace new
10 technologies, have time management skills, and be
11 hardworking, open minded, empathetic, and able to
12 delegate responsibilities, be motivating, and yet
13 be humble. Mike Caron is the only one I know
14 that has those skill sets.

15 Mike Caron is the only one where you will
16 get a hundred percent return on your investment.

17 At this time, it gives me the utmost honor
18 and privilege to introduce my friend and mentor,
19 Mike Caron, for second vice president of the
20 Firefighters Association of the State of New
21 York.

22 Thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Thank you.

25 Presentative for Diana Pfersick.

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2 MR. LAPINSKI: Michael Lapinski. Good
3 afternoon, everyone, presidents, officers, and
4 members of FASNY. My name is Mike Lapinski, and
5 I am the president of the Monroe County Volunteer
6 Firefighters' Association.

7 I stand before you to proudly present Diana
8 Pfersick for the position of second vice
9 president of FASNY. There are flyers all around
10 that list Diana's attributes for your reference.

11 I want to stress that Diana is truly the
12 best candidate for second vice president. She
13 has experience in all aspects of the volunteer
14 fire service as well as proven leadership
15 abilities.

16 Until recently, Diana was an interior
17 firefighter with the Rush Fire Department. She
18 is still active as an exterior firefighter as
19 well as an EMT with them. She is also a sworn
20 peace officer as a fire police officer in her
21 jurisdiction. Diana's knowledge and experience
22 in all these facets of the volunteer service is a
23 needed attribute for leadership in FASNY.

24 She has held the positions of secretary,
25 vice president, and president of her department

1
2 where she is a life member.

3 She has also held all of those same
4 positions in the Monroe County Volunteer
5 Firefighters' Association.

6 With FASNY, Diana served on the EMS
7 committee starting in 2003, where she eventually
8 served as chair of that committee prior to
9 becoming a director of this great association in
10 2015. As a director, she has served on numerous
11 committees of the board.

12 Diana has received numerous awards in her
13 fire career, including the Distinguished Service
14 Award from the Rush Fire Department, the Dunkin
15 Community Heroes Award, Rush American Legion
16 Commendation for Outstanding Public Service,
17 Outstanding Public Service Award from Monroe
18 County American Legion, Outstanding Public
19 Service from Western District Region of the
20 American Legion, Life Saving Award from the
21 Monroe County Sheriff's Department, just to name
22 a few.

23 Her memberships include: Life member of
24 the Western New York Volunteer Firemen's
25 Association, where she chairs the Public

1
2 Relations Committees; the Northern Central
3 Volunteer Firemen's Association, where she has
4 chaired their EMS and Public Relations committee
5 for many years; the Volunteer Fire Police
6 Association of the State of New York, and the
7 National Volunteer Fire Council. The Rochester
8 Protectives have named Diana an honorary member.

9 She has served on the Monroe County Fire
10 Advisory Board and currently sits on Monroe
11 County EMS Advisory Board. Diana has a
12 Bachelor's Degree in Art and Psychology. After
13 graduation, she became a nurse and is licensed as
14 a registered nurse.

15 She has a Master's Degree in Health Care
16 Administration.

17 As a nurse, Diana worked at Highland
18 Hospital in Rochester, New York. Units worked
19 included a surgical unit in the newborn and
20 special care nurseries, labor and delivery, and
21 for the last 10 years that she was there, she was
22 a nurse educator responsible for educating all
23 the hospital employees, including physicians.
24 After leaving Highland, she worked as a high
25 school nurse at the Wayne Central School

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2 District. She retired from that position in
3 2015, but remains a substitute nurse for the
4 district.

5 Diana is also certified as an American Red
6 Cross Instructor for Basic Life Support CPR and
7 Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

8 I ask that you consider who is truly the
9 best person for leadership in FASNY, and when you
10 do, you will know Diana Pfersick should be your
11 next second vice president.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Thank you.

15 Representative for Kenneth Holmes.

16 MR. ROTHDEINER: Good afternoon. Tom
17 Rothdeiner, past chief of Oriskany, past
18 president of Oneida County Volunteer Fire
19 Association, and Central New York Fire
20 Association.

21 I want to step away from this for one
22 moment and thank everybody that approached us
23 about the death of my brother the other day. It
24 was sudden that he passed away, and this big
25 family here and my family really appreciate it,

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so thank you very much.

FASNY officers and members, it gives me great pleasure to stand before you today to endorse not only a FASNY member, but a great friend, who has shown time and time again his dedication and drive for the betterment of all the organizations he is involved in.

Ken started his fire service with the Westmoreland Fire Department in Oneida County in 1981. He has served in all the line positions, including department chief, district chief, along with president of the department. Presently, he serves as a commissioner for the fire district. He is the past president of Oneida County Volunteer Firefighters' Association and past president of the Central New York Firefighters' Association, where he still serves on many committees within both organizations. Ken has served FASNY within many different avenues. He served on the Fire Prevention, Life Safety, and Fire Chiefs' committees. In 2009, he was appointed assistant sergeant-at-arms and later as the sergeant-at-arms. In 2017, he was elected to his first term on the board of directors and is

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currently serving on his second term.

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As a director, he has either served as an active member or as a liaison on many FASNY committees. He also serves as a director to the FASNY Foundation Board. Ken brings tradition, knowledge, experience, and respect to the all the volunteer fire service and will truly be an asset as a second vice president of this great organization.

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So here today, I officially endorse my friend, fellow camper, past chief, and past president, Kenneth Holmes, Sr., as your second vice president of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

16

Thank you.

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(Applause.)

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Thank you. Those are the four candidates for the office of second vice president.

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23

For the director seat on the board of directors of FASNY, is there a representative for Michael Norwood?

24

25

MR. DICKENSON: Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon, and welcome to Niagara Falls. My name

1
2 is Lowell Dickenson. I'm a 47 year member of
3 Wrights Corners Fire Company, a friend and
4 brother firefighter of Michael Norwood. I'm
5 honored to stand before you today to introduce
6 him as a remarkable candidate for the open
7 director position. Michael is not only a
8 dedicated family man, cherished by his wife,
9 Debra, and three children, Katherine, Michael,
10 and Aly, and let me just mention the reason for
11 his absence today. He's in Jackson, Wyoming, at
12 his son's wedding. Mike is also a pillar of our
13 community. His commitment to public service is
14 un-parallel. Having begun his journey in 1974
15 with the Spencerport Fire Department, where he
16 was an active member and also a member of the Red
17 Onions Drill Team. After moving to the town of
18 Lockport in Niagara County, Michael joined South
19 Lockport Fire Company as a firefighter.

20 For the past 30 years, he's been a
21 steadfast member of the Wrights Corners Fire
22 Department. His roles have been diverse and
23 impactful, serving as an interior firefighter,
24 EMS captain, treasurer for over two decades. His
25 leadership has resulted in paying off a 30 year

1
2 mortgage in just 10 and a half years on our new
3 building. Additionally, his contributions to the
4 truck committee have ensured the acquisition and
5 financial management of three new vehicles since
6 2013, without a significant financial strain.
7 Michael also continues to serve on new membership
8 and records committee and is Wrights Corners Fire
9 Company's FASNY delegate, further showcasing his
10 dedication and versatility.

11 Professionally, Michael has been an
12 esteemed science teacher since 1974, currently
13 teaching at Cardinal O'Hara High School. His
14 influence extends beyond the classroom as he
15 chairs the teachers' boards, directs the National
16 Honor Society, serves as a member of the
17 Secondary Teacher's Association Union Board since
18 2008.

19 As treasurer of this association since
20 2010, Michael has worked closely with local and
21 national unions, Department of Labor's office of
22 Labor Management and Standards.

23 Michael Norwood embodies the bodies of
24 dedication, leadership, and community service.
25 His extensive experience and unwavering

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commitment make him an invaluable asset to FASNY

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Board of Directors.

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Thank you for your time and attention. On

behalf of myself and Wrights Corners Fire

6

Company, I urge you to vote for Michael L.

7

Norwood for director tomorrow.

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Your support for Michael is a vote for a

brighter, more dedicated future.

10

Thank you.

11

(Applause.)

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: A representative for

13

Robert Ottaviano.

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MR. FRAME: Good afternoon, all. My name

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is Walter Frame. I'm a past president of the

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Nassau County Firemen's Association, and it gives

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me great pleasure to introduce Robert for this

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esteemed position with FASNY. I've known Bob

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probably for 25, 30 years, and we've worked

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together very well over the years.

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Many of you may know Bob as an active

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member of his county and sectional organizations,

23

including FASNY. He's a past president of Nassau

24

County, past president of the Southern New York

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Volunteer Firemen's Association. He's a member

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2 of the Glenwood Hook and Ladder Engine and Hose
3 Company for many years, serving in leadership
4 positions, including chairman, trustee,
5 president, and is currently serving in his second
6 five year term as trustee. He has also served on
7 numerous department committees, which include
8 bylaws, scholarship, fund drive, and school real
9 estate tax exemption, not to mention being the
10 coordinator of many department recreational
11 activities.

12 Bob is a graduate of Pace University with a
13 BBA in public accounting and is a licensed
14 certified public accountant in the State of New
15 York. He also has 14 other certificates in
16 finance and auditing granted from the American
17 Institute of Certified Public Accountants,
18 Institute of Internal Auditors, Association of
19 Certified Fraud Examiners, Information Systems
20 Audit and Control Association, and the Institute
21 of Management Accountants. He is currently the
22 chief accountant for the New York State
23 Department of Financial Services and has been a
24 chief financial officer and board member in a
25 publically traded company and in charge of

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2 financial reporting for a fortunate 500 company.

3 Along with his firematic involvement, he's
4 an active member and has served as president in
5 many organizations, some of which are the Public
6 Employees Federation Local 174, Rockville Centre
7 Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies, the
8 Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Eight, and
9 the Matinecock Rod and Gun Club.

10 We feel that Bob is well qualified to serve
11 as a director of FASNY and has the dedication to
12 serve our membership in that position.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Thank you.

16 I'm sure most everybody here knows the
17 candidates for the uncontested races, but for the
18 purposes of the official transcript, I'm just
19 going to go through them quick. For president,
20 Eugene Perry. For first vice president, Donnie
21 Farrell. For director, Michael Karashay. For
22 trustee, Doug Van Etten. For trustee, Barbara
23 Fischer. For trustee, Anthony Clark.

24 Chairman and Convention Chairman Farrell
25 also asked me to provide a little clarification.

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2 What you heard here were introductions. They
3 were not nominations. Our process is, and has
4 been for a number of years, that you have to get
5 the petition signed with 25 signatures of FASNY
6 members in good standing. Once you do that, you
7 are on the ballot. So, they were not
8 nominations, they were merely introductions to
9 the body of those candidates for those contested
10 races.

11 Once again, voting Friday, 8:00 to 1:00
12 p.m., in the Porter/DeVeaux room. Please have
13 your voting card. When you get there, you have
14 to exchange your card for the two ballots. We
15 put each of the two offices on separate ballots,
16 and please be careful to put them in the proper
17 ballot box. We've got a good attendance here at
18 the convention, so I have no doubt there's going
19 to be a high turnout for the election, and it
20 just makes it easier for us going through and
21 then counting the ballots.

22 If anybody has any questions about the
23 election process, you can see me after the
24 session is over.

25 Thank you.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Thank you, John. Thank you for those individuals that did those introductions. Thank you very much.

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It's now my privilege to call upon First Vice President Eugene Perry for a few announcements.

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MR. PERRY: Thank you.

Just a reminder that all of our scheduled events are listed in the convention program.

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This evening at 7:00 p.m. is the block party, which will be held on Old Falls Street, which is located in between the hotel and the convention center.

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Our business session tomorrow morning will begin at 9:00 a.m. here in the ballroom.

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Our Annual Two Percent forum will be held tomorrow afternoon from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. here in the main ballroom.

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I would ask that everyone please take the time to stop by and visit our vendors that are here this week with us.

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Take a moment to look at all the gift baskets that will be raffled off at our

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scholarship event tomorrow night. Tickets will
be on sale all week.

MR. TASE: Thank you, Gene.

The scholarship raffle baskets, which the
tickets will start to be sold, that is one of our
largest fundraisers to make it available for us
to supply the 25, \$1,500.00 scholarships that we
present annually to high school seniors. So
please, take your time, purchase those tickets,
and get involved in that process.

Thank you very much.

At this time, I'll entertain a motion to
recess this meeting until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow
morning.

MR. KERSHNER: Motion.

MR. TASE: Bill Kershner makes a motion.

MR. KISLACK: Second.

MR. TASE: And a second by Wayne Kislack.

Any questions?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

(No response.)

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MR. TASE: So carried.

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9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

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(Whereupon, the convention was adjourned to
August 9, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.)

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2 OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 152ND ANNUAL
3 MEETING OF THE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD FROM THE 8TH DAY OF
5 AUGUST THROUGH THE 10TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024, AT
6 NIAGARA FALLS CONVENTION CENTER, 101 OLD FALLS
7 STREET, NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK.

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11 August 9, 2024
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14

15 **B E F O R E:** EDWARD TASE, JR., President
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24 Jamie J. Woodard
25 Court Stenographer

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MR. TASE: Good morning, everyone. We're going to begin. Our Congresswoman who is going to speak to us this morning just called. She's running about 10 minutes late, but she will be here. Congresswoman Claudia Tenney is going to be here to speak to us this morning.

Is Bob McConville in the room? Sergeant-at-Arms, is Bob McConville out there in the hallway? If you can, have him come on in.

The exits are behind me, that way. Follow the room, and we'll get out okay.

At this time, I would like to call Bob McConville, Gerry Owenburg, and Bob Sutton to the dais.

Bob, Gerry, the Firefighters Association of the State of New York takes cancer in the fire service very seriously. On behalf of the association, here is a contribution to the Cancer Support Network for what you do for our members.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. MCCONVILLE: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. MCCONVILLE: I spoke about it at the

1
2 Past Presidents' Dinner. I spoke at the Past
3 Presidents Dinner about cancer in the volunteer
4 fire service, and that in 2010, FASNY was the
5 first one to mention cancer and volunteer
6 firefighter in the same sentence, and at that
7 time, President Jacobowitz partnered with the
8 Cancer Network that was just starting. Tony Cruz
9 was the gentleman that started that organization
10 here in New York State, and the gentlemen behind
11 me, Gerry Owenburg, and Bob Sutton, who I know
12 very well, and another gentleman, Ronnie Barz
13 from Hauppauge have carried that out since 2010.
14 We have a great cancer bill for volunteer
15 firefighters, and it's a pleasure and an honor to
16 be able to support not only FASNY with this
17 agenda, but certainly with the past presidents,
18 and this year we would like to give a donation
19 for \$500.00 for the Cancer Network in honor of
20 Debbie Finnegan.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. MCCONVILLE: The Past Presidents thank
23 you for all your support at our past dinners over
24 the year, and we look forward to next year on
25 Long Island, and certainly to make another

1
2 donation to this great organization, the Cancer
3 Network.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. TASE: Thank you for your continued
7 support for the most serious issue in the
8 volunteer fire service. Thank you.

9 At this time, we'll have an invocation by
10 Barrie-Lyn Foster.

11 (Whereupon, invocation by Reverend
12 Barrie-Lyn Foster.)

13 MR. TASE: Sergeant-at-Arms, Pledge of
14 Allegiance.

15 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was
16 recited by Sergeant-at-Arms Juan Batta and the
17 audience members.)

18 MR. TASE: Thank you very much.

19 It's my distinct honor this morning as
20 President of the Firefighters Association of the
21 State of New York to welcome Congresswoman
22 Claudia Tenney to join us this morning to share
23 some of her information to us and her continued
24 support of the volunteer fire service.

25 Claudia?

1

2

(Applause.)

3

CONGRESSWOMAN TENNEY: Oh, my gosh. Thanks

4

so much. Thank you. I didn't know we were going

5

to jump right into this, but thank you to all of

6

you, and I really appreciate what you're doing.

7

And thank you to FASNY and all that you do to

8

protect our volunteer fire force and to protect

9

our communities. It's particularly important, as

10

we know, one of the things of the things I've

11

been highlighting, it's great to have Ed and the

12

FASNY crew in Washington. They're kind of

13

teasing me now, because I did have a little one

14

of those handheld tasers that I sampled on them

15

just to get them started in the mornings. It

16

works like coffee. They enjoyed it so much that

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I gave it to them to take to other members of

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Congress to make sure they got on our letter to

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taking down or amending the rule that was passed

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by OSHA.

21

So that's really what I just wanted to take

22

a moment to talk to you about that, and I really

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appreciate all of you and your advocacy on behalf

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of this. We were made aware of this because of

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FASNY. The rule that was put into place on

1
2 February 5th, unfortunately, the public comment
3 period was closed, and we did receive over 5,000
4 comments that we know of. We're continuing to go
5 across the state and across the country in a
6 bipartisan way. As you know, this is a very
7 bipartisan issue. I'm working on trying to make
8 this rule fit better into our volunteer fire
9 service so it doesn't threaten our communities
10 and the safety of our communities, and I've been
11 so pleased with all of the work that you've all
12 done to give us all the volunteer services.
13 We've been up and down the district. We're
14 continuing to do this. I know my colleagues on
15 both sides of the aisle are working on this, so
16 it's really important that we get to OSHA before
17 this virtual meeting in November and make sure
18 they hear our voices that we are doing everything
19 we can. Top concern as you all know and you all
20 take an oath of service to serve is safety,
21 public safety. We don't want to do anything to
22 jeopardize public safety, but sometimes
23 government comes out with one size fits all
24 rules, and those rules don't apply necessarily to
25 some of the situations that you face in some of

1
2 the more rural and suburban areas across the
3 state, and so we're fighting every way we can to
4 come up with amended versions of it, ways to
5 restart this rule, and ways to make sure we
6 protect all of you and all of your communities,
7 and just grateful for all of you who do answer
8 the call to serve. We know how difficult it is.
9 When I served with the state legislature, and
10 even now in Washington, I've heard from you for
11 many years about all the issues facing our fire
12 service and the many changes we've tried to make
13 on a government level to make it possible to
14 continue with the volunteer fire service. I
15 think some of the stats you gave us, over 1,700
16 volunteer fire departments in New York State
17 alone. That's a lot, a lot of people doing a lot
18 of great work serving our communities and saving
19 the taxpayer money. That is what is so
20 important, and we really appreciate all that you
21 do and all that your volunteer groups are doing.
22 We also know that some of these provisions of
23 this law would make it very difficult, and the
24 problem that you've talked about for many years,
25 which is recruitment and retention of bringing

1
2 people into the fire service. Some of the rules
3 are onerous, people with young families would not
4 be able to participate in some of the training,
5 some of the age limitations would make it
6 difficult to have some of our older volunteers
7 work in the service, and then just some of the
8 regulations on some of the equipment. Yesterday
9 I was actually in the Town of Watertown, took a
10 look. They had a beautiful piece of equipment.
11 Their ladder truck, which would have considered
12 inoperable in excellent condition, maintained
13 really well, certified by all the groups that are
14 out there for the state to make sure that the
15 safety is top notch, so this is where we're
16 trying to get all the information we can from all
17 of you. Please reach out to your member of
18 congress, your member of the state legislature,
19 and assemblyman, trying to make this an all of
20 government approach, everyone from the local
21 level all the way up to congress and getting to
22 OSHA before this rule so that we can have a voice
23 to make sure that some of these provisions are
24 rolled back and the best way that you have
25 advised us in the last several weeks.

1
2 So I just wanted to be here for a moment.
3 I actually just stopped in. I'm on my way --
4 This is my end of the district. I don't quite
5 get Niagara Falls, but I have the northern part
6 of Niagara County, all the way to the St.
7 Lawrence Seaway, so basically the shoreline of
8 Lake Ontario, except for Monroe County, where I
9 tell Congressman Joe Morelli that I got him
10 surrounded. He can only get away by water --

11 (Laughter.)

12 MS. TENNEY: (Continuing) -- but we served
13 in the assembly together. He's also so
14 supportive. So this is a very, very large
15 district, but what is really notable is the
16 number of volunteers that serve in this district
17 by necessity. We have a lot of rural territory.
18 It's the number one agricultural district in the
19 northeast, the number one dairy district in the
20 northeast, one of the top apple producers in the
21 entire nation. We have a lot going on in this
22 district, and we have a lot of needs, especially
23 for the safety of our community.

24 So again, I just want to say, I'm grateful
25 to you. I just wanted to say thank you to Ed and

1
2 everyone at FASNY for giving me a moment to just
3 continue to tell you that we are fighting for you
4 and that we need all the information we can from
5 you to make sure that we get this information to
6 OSHA.

7 So with that, I just wanted to say thanks
8 again to all of you. We're grateful. You do
9 wonderful work. Keep at it. We're fighting for
10 you, but just let us know how we can get any kind
11 of information to them. Each fire department has
12 been giving me sort of a checklist of things that
13 they think, ways that we can -- parts of the rule
14 that we can either remove or parts of the rule
15 that we can amend that would make it more
16 specific to their region and their fire
17 department. So if you would do that and provide
18 that information to us, we'd be grateful.

19 And with that, I just wanted to say that --
20 Today is your opening day, right?

21 MR. TASE: No, the last.

22 MS. TENNEY: Oh, the last day. So it's a
23 little rainy today, so I hope you don't just jump
24 over the falls or anything.

25 (Laughter.)

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2

MS. TENNEY: Unless that's what the taser
is going to be doing.

3

4

(Laughter.)

5

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MS. TENNEY: So thank you so much. We
really appreciate all you do. I know FASNY is a
terrific organization. You're doing a wonderful
job for our volunteers, so thanks so much.

7

8

9

Appreciate it.

10

MR. TASE: Claudia, thank you so much.

11

(Standing ovation.)

12

13

MR. TASE: Thank you for your continuous
fight for the volunteer fire service, not only in
New York, but nationally.

14

15

MS. TENNEY: Thank you so much. Appreciate
it.

16

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MR. TASE: As ole John Corkery would say,
that's our friends in government right there.

19

20

She's working for us diligently. Donnie Farrell
was the one that was in Washington, when we were
in Washington, was graciously handed a taser by
Claudia, and they left it in his hands to operate
when we went from one office to the next, grabbed
their attention. He kept wanting to tase me, but
it was fun, but we still got the job done, and

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she's working diligently for us, diligently.

At this time, is Kathleen Heighton in the audience? Okay, the ladies aren't here yet. Okay. I guess we're going to modify this.

At this time, it's my distinct honor that I call to the podium Dr. Candice McDonald to join us for a few words of wisdom. Candice worked and was the Deputy CEO of the National Volunteer Fire Council up until July. In July, she moved on her career. She went back to where she originally started at with NASA. She is now the Chief of NASA, and we welcome her here with us this morning.

(Applause.)

DR. MCDONALD: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

DR. MCDONALD: So many of you in this room have been to one of my workshops in the past. You most likely had a conversation about recruitment and retention and how to fix the problem of not having enough people to actively volunteer in the fire service. I've shared that message, I researched, had real world experiences all over the United States and in multiple

1
2 countries. I even have a book on volunteer
3 recruitment and retention being published very
4 soon by our friends at Fire Engineering.

5 Well, today is going to be a little
6 different, because instead of sharing research
7 and strategies, I want to share a story with you,
8 my story, and a story that starts with a
9 confession. A confession about something I've
10 been doing for over 30 years. That is, I sniff
11 hotel sheets.

12 (Laughter.)

13 DR. MCDONALD: Well, okay, maybe just the
14 pillow case. So now that you're thinking that
15 I'm weird, and if you knew me before today,
16 you're probably thinking I might be even a little
17 weirder, and after last night's great FASNY block
18 party and joining the Nerds on Wild Nation, I
19 know I found my weird people.

20 (Laughter.)

21 DR. MCDONALD: So over the last two
22 decades, I've stayed at hundreds of hotels, and
23 during the first night of each stay as I lay my
24 head down on the crisp, white pillow case, I
25 inhale. I inhale to make sure that it doesn't

1
2 smell like a shelter, the same way that I do when
3 I pull out fresh sheets from the dryer and when I
4 made my own bed at the home that I own. You see,
5 almost 30 years ago before I was Dr. Candice,
6 travelling and sharing at conferences and staying
7 in great hotels, I was a teenager sleeping in a
8 shelter. I remember the smell of the shelter
9 pillowcase. I remember sleeping in fear with my
10 possessions held tightly to my chest to make sure
11 they didn't go missing during the night. I
12 remember feeling like I didn't have a place to
13 belong. Now I sniff sheets to remind myself of
14 the reality of my current life, that I am safe
15 with a roof over my head. I smell the sheets to
16 remind myself of the life that I've created and
17 not to forget the life that I could be living.

18 Today I'm going to share with you a story
19 about how you can change your community, your
20 fire department, and even your own life if you
21 change your mindset and how you approach the
22 problems that come before you and how you
23 approach others.

24 So here is my disclaimer. I don't have a
25 magic wand to change your life, to fix your

1
2 organization, or to fix your community. You have
3 to be the magic. Coming to a great conference
4 like FASNY and learning new things is just the
5 start. You have to apply what you learn here
6 today and at every training that you go to.
7 Attending a class or having a conversation isn't
8 going to magically change your organization or
9 your life. You have to be willing to do things
10 differently. Had I not done things differently,
11 I could still be sleeping in a shelter. Success
12 is an ongoing process, and what we do today can
13 change the path of tomorrow. It's too late for
14 yesterday. That door has been shut, and the key
15 has been thrown away. Today is a new day, a new
16 day to change our mindsets and for us to be the
17 magic to change our industry and change the
18 communities that we live in. Who's with me on
19 that?

20 (Applause.)

21 DR. MCDONALD: So I am no longer that
22 scared teenager sleeping in a shelter, which has
23 now been turned into our county health
24 department. I no longer question who I can
25 become. Today I'm a Chief at NASA, which here's

1
2 another disclaimer, I am not here on behalf, nor
3 have they endorsed me being here -- I don't want
4 to get fired during my fourth week -- I'm just
5 here as Dr. Candice. Dr. Candice, an active
6 volunteer firefighter and EMT. Dr. Candice, the
7 former Deputy CEO of the National Volunteer Fire
8 Council, the greatest national organization in
9 the fire service. If you're not a member, I
10 encourage you to do so. Dr. Candice who is a
11 wife to a volunteer firefighter paramedic turned
12 nurse that now runs a level one trauma center in
13 Cleveland who got his start because of the
14 volunteer fire service, and who was a first
15 generation college student and went to college
16 because of the volunteer fire service. Most
17 importantly, I am here as a mom to three adult
18 kids that I love dearly, and I am going to be a
19 nana in February.

20 (Applause.)

21 DR. MCDONALD: That is who I am. If you
22 would have told me when I was 16 or 18, when I
23 was sleeping in that shelter even, or even at 30,
24 that this would be my future, working at NASA,
25 being a national leader in the fire service, an

1
2 author, and a speaker, I would not have believed
3 you. My life it looked a lot different back
4 then, but it's because of the people who thought
5 differently, who thought outside of the box, who
6 instead of seeing me as a poor girl from the
7 wrong side of the tracks, they believed in me.
8 Life is not always easy. Being a leader is not
9 always easy. Serving our community is not always
10 easy. Through my message here this morning, I
11 hope that you leave here with a new way to
12 approach the people you lead, the people that you
13 serve, and I'm sharing my message to let you know
14 that we can make a difference, and that starts
15 with you.

16 All right, so lesson number one. Commit to
17 moving from a fixed mindset to a growth mindset.
18 Science tells us that our brains light up with
19 excitement when we see potential possibilities,
20 instead of seeing roadblocks. Our brains, they
21 don't get excited when we dig in our severed
22 heels and we adopt that mentality that's how
23 we've always done it, why should we change
24 things. Our brains don't like that. When we
25 have mentality to say why should we bothering

1
2 trying things, nobody cares, our brains don't get
3 excited. A growth mindset starts with us no
4 longer blaming others and no longer blaming the
5 younger generation for what is wrong with our
6 industry. I hear it all the time, and I see it
7 on social media. We have developed this fixed
8 mindset in which we believe that our younger
9 generation is the problem, and because of that,
10 we believe that the future of the fire service is
11 in danger. We mock the younger generation for
12 how they think. When we do that, why would they
13 want to volunteer with us? We joke that all they
14 want is a participation trophy, and when they do
15 join us, and when they make mistakes, we see
16 those mistakes as negative failures, and we are
17 quick to draw attention to those mistakes, and
18 then we wonder why they stop coming around.

19 Somehow we've fallen into this culture of a
20 fixed mindset, where we stop believing that we
21 can make a difference in our youth. We stop
22 believing that we can make a difference within
23 our organizations. We stop believing in our
24 future. We've deemed that trying something new
25 that might end in a failure is a bad thing, not

1
2 worthy of a participation trophy. We have
3 developed this culture that when we fail it's
4 tragic and catastrophic. This fixed mindset, it
5 leaves our core intelligent tested and
6 devastated, then we stop trying, because we don't
7 want to look stupid or judged. I'm here to tell
8 you, failure is a good thing. That means we are
9 in the game trying. Someone, a stranger in my
10 community, believed that I, that teenager
11 sleeping in a shelter, could have a different
12 life and break the generational cycle of poverty.
13 Someone believed that I could be a first
14 generation college student. Someone believed I
15 was more than just a statistic and that I was
16 worth investing in. Are we doing that for the
17 people in our community?

18 Fast forward in my 30's, someone believed
19 that I as a single mom with three kids could be a
20 volunteer firefighter and an EMT, and that has
21 changed my life. My friends, if we stop pointing
22 the finger at our younger generation and we stop
23 blaming them, what could happen? What if we stop
24 mocking them because they do things differently?
25 They aren't scary, I promise. Last night at the

1
2 block party I saw this child sitting all alone at
3 the foot of the ping-pong table, a young child
4 with sad and lonely eyes with a ping-pong paddle
5 in hand. I walked up to that child, and I asked,
6 are you going to play ping-pong? And they said,
7 I've been waiting here for over 20 minutes for
8 someone to come and play with me. I said, I'm
9 here, let's play. I wasn't very good, but we
10 played for about 10 minutes. I lost terribly,
11 but during that time my new friend, Ocean, who
12 was in eighth grade, got to learn that I was a
13 firefighter, and at the end of our game, Ocean
14 said to me, you walking over and playing with me
15 was the best thing that happened to me all night.
16 That is how we make a difference.

17 (Applause.)

18 DR. MCDONALD: If we want to make an
19 impact, we have to be willing to play the game,
20 even if we stink at it.

21 Let me let you in on another little secret.
22 Creating change means you don't always win.
23 Sometimes it's just being in the game. Failure
24 is part of the growth process. Failure is not
25 bad, it's how we move towards progress. It's how

1
2 we learn. Our younger generation has already
3 figured that out. We're the ones that are
4 sometimes a little difficult. It's why they
5 thrive off of the praise in the process. It
6 isn't that they want a trophy for failure, even
7 though that's what many people say by calling
8 them the participation trophy generation. What
9 they've learned is that hard work and staying in
10 the game leads to progress. They celebrate the
11 team's effort. My goodness, isn't that what we
12 want in the fire service, for our volunteers to
13 participate, to show up and stay in the game?
14 Think about that.

15 In 2023, I started indoor rock climbing to
16 bond with my adult daughter. I started climbing
17 three to four times a week with her and her
18 husband. A typical day in the gym with me is my
19 almost 50 year old self with a bunch of 20
20 somethings. Those participation trophy kids,
21 they have changed my life. When I said to them,
22 I am too short to do this. They said, no, you're
23 not, and then they told me that one of the
24 world's best climbers was five feet tall and that
25 I had an entire inch on her.

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(Laughter.)

DR. MCDONALD: When I said, I am too old, my body no longer goes that way, they said, you have to approach the problems differently in a way that fits you. That's how you succeed here. That is growth mindset. While everyone in my generation older were telling me I was crazy for climbing walls without a harass and that I was going to break a hip, the young people kept saying to me keep climbing, and you will see results. The younger generation is all about building one another up focusing on the small progress that they make. We give them a hard time because they want likes and praise, but science tells us that praise for progress works, because praising the progress is focusing on the journey as a whole instead of the now. A growth mindset focuses on the I cans and I'm not there yet, but I can learn. I have an Uncle who's just four years older than I am, so we grew up like siblings. He retired from the Marines and moved in next door to me. Last summer I took my big, bad Marine Uncle to the climbing gym, because I wanted to show him my new talents. When we

1
2 showed up in the gym they said, we are having a
3 Dyno competition instead of regular open
4 climbing. The younger people said to me, you
5 should enter. I said, remember, I am old enough
6 to be the mother to all of you, and I don't stand
7 a chance at winning anything in a competition.
8 They said, age doesn't matter. Come have some
9 fun with us, and we'll even have pizza, and you
10 might just get a prize for trying. They crossed
11 that generation line. They included me as an
12 equal. We don't always do that for them. So
13 instead of saying she's too old and doesn't want
14 to change, they said join us. So I said, yes.
15 How could I turn down pizza and the possibility
16 of a prize? Well, I failed to ask something. I
17 failed to ask what a Dyno competition was, and it
18 turns out, instead of just climbing up plastic
19 poles, Dyno is pretending that you are Tarzan and
20 swinging and jumping from pole to pole.

21 (Laughter.)

22 DR. MCDONALD: Well, I'm going to show you
23 a video, and this video is not me.

24 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

25 DR. MCDONALD: That was not me, but that's

1
2 what Dyno climbing is. Once my Uncle realized
3 what Dyno was, he was out. He was like, I am not
4 having a part of it, but these young kids would
5 not let me back out. The result.

6 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

7 DR. MCDONALD: I didn't finish a single
8 route in that competition, but every twenty
9 something in that gym cheered for me. They
10 encouraged me to keep trying. Every time I would
11 touch a little bit further, they said, yes, and
12 they would give me knuckles after every failure.
13 They saw those failures as wins, because I made a
14 little bit more progress each time I tried. I
15 never had so much fun failing in my entire life.
16 I walked away knowing that my gym was a safe
17 place to fail. It was a safe place to try and
18 grow my abilities, and not worry about being
19 judged. We've not done a very good job in the
20 fire service of creating safe spaces to try new
21 things and to fail without the fear of being
22 judged. Instead of encouraging progress when
23 people are not performing how we think they
24 should be, we gossip and we talk negatively about
25 our brothers and sisters. We're not always nice,

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2 and then we question why things are not
3 progressing and why people are not showing up.
4 So what if we cross the generational line and
5 tried something scary, something new. I did it
6 with Dyno climbing, and yes, they even gave me a
7 trophy, third place.

8 (Applause.)

9 DR. MCDONALD: But they gave me something
10 more than that. They believed in me, and I
11 pushed myself harder and harder.

12 So I challenge you to rethink how you look
13 at the phrase participation trophy in that
14 generation, because my friends, we want
15 participation in the fire service. I interviewed
16 some of these kids in this generation and what
17 they thought about that label, and these are what
18 they said. It isn't about winning, it's about
19 participation, as in the environment and the
20 friendships, participating in an experience.
21 That's that we love. Oh, can we give them that
22 in the fire service? Yeah. Another said, not
23 everyone can compete for first place. We know
24 that. We understand that. If we can participate
25 to make ourselves a little bit better, that's

1
2 truly a win. Does that make sense? That is what
3 being a participation trophy generation view is.

4 I challenge you to rethink that. When
5 people say, they're just a participation trophy
6 generation, challenge them. Be the difference.
7 Believe in these young kids. These young kids
8 made me better. I watched my climbing skills
9 double within months. My fears slipped away,
10 because the young people believed in me, and
11 because of that belief, I, with an autoimmune
12 disease that sometimes cripples my joints, I
13 climbed a mountain.

14 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

15 DR. MCDONALD: That is the power of growth
16 mindset, believing in others. That is the
17 influence that mindset can have on those we
18 interact with. That is the result of young
19 people celebrating my failures, because those
20 failures are part of the progress journey. So
21 don't get discouraged when you fail, embrace it,
22 it's part of the journey.

23 So I ask you, how will you commit to
24 empowering others? Will you praise
25 participation, or will you mock it? Will you be

1
2 committed to positive change in the fire service?
3 Will you stop wearing your cranky pants and
4 complaining about everything and actually get
5 involved and be the difference? The fire service
6 is counting on you to be the difference. So I
7 ask you to take that pledge, be the difference.

8 Lesson number two. Be careful of your
9 messaging. Words matter. What we say and what
10 we post on social media has an impact. We tend
11 to place labels on others who are not like us.
12 We sometimes label our new recruits as
13 unteachable, when they might just need a little
14 bit of extra help and encouragement. We only see
15 them where they are right now, instead of seeing
16 where they can be. That is a fixed mindset and
17 something that we need to get away from, because
18 science tells us that our brain can grow. We
19 have to believe that things can change, that
20 people, no matter where they come from, maybe
21 even a shelter, can succeed.

22 My mom fostered a growth mindset. She's an
23 amazing woman, and it was part of her lifestyle.
24 She grew up very poor, but the poor wasn't big
25 enough for me and my childhood, it was a huge

1
2 roadblock. I was also the child of a drug
3 addict, my biological dad, which per the data,
4 meant that I was eight times more likely to
5 develop an addiction. My mom left him when I was
6 a baby, but he still had visitation, and let me
7 tell you, those visitations were something. You
8 see, before I took an oath to serve our country
9 as a federal agent, I had a different job. It
10 was one of my core memories with my biological
11 dad. Before I started kindergarten, my dad gave
12 me a job during those visitations. My job was to
13 lick the rolling papers on the joints that he
14 rolled. Once I licked them, he would put them in
15 a plastic bag, that same plastic bag my dad took
16 to the park with us to see his friends, and we
17 would go home once that bag was empty. It turns
18 out, I was a four year old drug dealer, and
19 didn't know it. This was a time when the
20 government was sending children of drug users a
21 fixed mindset message. In a message meant to
22 scare parents, they were sending a message that I
23 was destined to be a drug addict, because I had a
24 parent who used drugs.

25 (Whereupon, a video was played.)

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2 DR. MCDONALD: I remember seeing that
3 commercial. I was terrified that I was going to
4 wake up and automatically be a drug addict, but
5 because someone put that message out there, it
6 really got to me. I thought that was my future.
7 My biological dad eventually overdosed and died.
8 This was during a time when overdoses were not
9 common. As first responders, we are dealing with
10 overdoses in alarming rates. We often get
11 frustrated, and we make judgments. We make
12 comments that these kids in these homes, they
13 have no future because of where they come from,
14 from that addict. I came from that addict. But
15 what if we believed in those kids, but what if we
16 believed those kids could join an explorer or a
17 junior program, which could lead them to becoming
18 an adult volunteer, and it could give them a
19 career path? What if we could be that crossroad,
20 the fire service could be the crossroad, that
21 they need for a better life? What if we give
22 them an opportunity for that child to become a
23 adult who's driving our ambulance instead of
24 being a generation patient getting Narcan in the
25 back? What if we create paths for these youth

1
2 within our community? We could be the difference
3 if we do that.

4 Lesson three. If it is broken or
5 ineffective, fix it, and I know FASNY is doing
6 that hard with this OSHA thing. I hate public
7 bathrooms. People don't always flush the
8 toilets. When my son was about eight, I was
9 complaining about not being able to find a clean
10 bathroom to use, because no one flushed the
11 toilets. My son looked at me and said, what if
12 you flushed it, that way you had a bathroom to
13 use and then the next person had one? What a
14 concept. We often walk by, and crap, and think,
15 I didn't create it, so why should I fix it? We
16 become the victim of that crap instead of just
17 flushing the toilet. In life, we can let our
18 situation be a pass for being victims or let it
19 be an excuse for not fixing what is broke or
20 moving our organizations forward. I'm here to
21 tell you, no one is going to fix it for us. We
22 need to be proactive. I wish that I could say
23 that having an addicted parent and being poor was
24 one of the worst things of my childhood, but in
25 the ninth grade, a serial killer came to my home

1
2 and tried to murder me, but by the grace of God,
3 I was spared, and I wish that I could say that he
4 was arrested for the crimes that he committed
5 against me, but the law at the time let me down,
6 and a technicality let him free. It's easy to
7 fall into the victim role when we don't like
8 what's happening around us. The process to
9 change it cannot be an easy journey. We are
10 creatures of habit. Change is uncomfortable, but
11 no one is going to flush the toilet for us, we've
12 got to be that change.

13 We can do this by learning to turn our
14 emotion into action. This is something I learned
15 from my mom. When we live in a state of emotion,
16 it's hard to function. Emotions are a form of
17 energy, and if we use that emotion, that energy,
18 to create positive change, if something is broken
19 or ineffective, we can fix it.

20 Going back to my childhood, when the law
21 technicality failed me and the monster in my life
22 went free, I learned to turn that emotion into
23 action. My mom said, if the law is broken, you
24 are going to change it. That is a growth
25 mindset. I spent almost all of my high school

1
2 years writing letters and stalking state
3 legislators, because this was a time before the
4 internet, so I'd have to stalk them at every
5 community event and fair, and I was begging them
6 to help me change the law. This is a picture of
7 one of my actual letters. I didn't stop until
8 someone listened. Instead of going to my prom my
9 senior year, I went to our state capital to
10 deliver a victim impact statement to have the law
11 changed, and that law was eventually changed.
12 Knowing I did everything I could to jail my
13 monster made a difference in my life. It gave my
14 emotion a positive path forward. It also made
15 all the difference when my greatest fear came
16 true. That monster ended up murdering several
17 other teen girls. The monster's wife confessed
18 after he died, and he was never charged, but I
19 know that I did everything that I could in my
20 power to stop him, and that provides me peace.
21 Knowing that I changed the law, will now protect
22 others that come after us. I didn't cause the
23 crap, but I flushed the toilet. If a 17 year old
24 kid not old enough to vote can show up and make
25 state legislators change the law, just imagine

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what you can do.

You are the someone that needs to fix it.
No one will do it for you, so step up and flush
the toilet.

The final lesson, be a mentor. You owe it
to those who mentored you. Think about those
people, and I challenge you, send them a thank
you message this week, thank them for what
they've done for you. The fire service can be a
scary place. Be the person that makes
volunteering a little easier. I have been
blessed to have great mentors in my life, like
Steve Austin. Being a mentor starts with giving
up the nozzle. We don't always do a good job of
giving up the nozzle in the fire service. We
send our new recruits to fire school and EMT
school, but when the big fire or trauma comes, we
push them out of the way and say, I got this one.
You get the next one. This is a hard one, let me
do it. We don't give them an opportunity to
practice their skills. So instead of stepping
aback and allowing our new recruits an
opportunity to use the skills that we sent them
to get, we get in the way, and then we get

1
2 frustrated when months down the road they can't
3 perform to our expectations, but we failed to
4 mentor them in the field. We have to give up the
5 nozzle. We've got to be a mentor to the next
6 generation, and we need to allow them to be
7 confident in their skills with our help. Instead
8 of giving feedback to help others grow, we tend
9 to gossip about people. We'll say, did you see
10 what they did? Oh my gosh, I can't believe that
11 they did that. Instead of asking, how can I help
12 you succeed, giving them positive feedback,
13 showing them a different path, we gossip.

14 I challenge you to be that mentor. Let me
15 tell you a story of Ed and not Ed Tase. This is
16 a stinky Ed story, although somebody might be a
17 little stinky today with no water --

18 (Laughter.)

19 DR. MCDONALD: So my first week in my first
20 adult job when I was 19 my boss gave me an
21 assignment. He told me that I had to tell Ed
22 that he stunk. Ed was a mental health client
23 that we hired to do some procure work and some on
24 the job training, and Ed had an odor, and
25 everybody was complaining about it. So me, being

1
2 the new person, my boss, Thomas, said, your job
3 is to tell Ed that he stinks, and that was hard,
4 because I was raised that if you have nothing
5 nice to say, don't say it at all. So I did what
6 anybody would do, I took Ed to lunch. Finally,
7 on the way back to his apartment I got the
8 courage, and I said, Ed, I don't know if you
9 know, but there's an odor coming from your
10 clothes. I don't know if your deodorant stopped
11 working or what, and Ed goes, I know I stink. I
12 said, what? He said, I have to make a choice. I
13 could either go to the laundry mat and pay to
14 have my clothes washed, or I can use that money
15 to buy bus fare so I can go to work. We don't
16 always do a good job asking people why they're
17 not meeting our expectations. Sometimes life
18 barriers get in the way, and that is what
19 happened for Ed. We were able to get him some
20 bus passes, and then he didn't stink. So next
21 time someone isn't performing, think of Ed.

22 I challenge you to ask questions. Find out
23 what barriers are in place. Help them find the
24 solutions so that they can be successful. People
25 want to succeed. They just don't always know the

1
2 path to get there. Be that voice. Provide that
3 path.

4 Be the kind of mentor that helps other
5 achieve their goals. School was never easy for
6 me. In fact, in the eight grade, I was told by
7 my guidance counselor that I probably wouldn't
8 graduate high school, and college wasn't an
9 option for me.

10 (Laughter.)

11 DR. MCDONALD: For years I thought I wasn't
12 smart enough, so I didn't try. That's the power
13 of words. I faced that same type of barrier when
14 I applied to PHD programs. This is the letter I
15 received. I was told that I didn't have the
16 knowledge to succeed in the PHD program. Well
17 now I'm working for NASA with one. So I told my
18 mentor at the time, Steve Austin, that I really
19 wanted to become Dr. Candice, but I had been
20 rejected, and he said something that changed my
21 life. He didn't have a doctorate, but he knew
22 people who did. At FDIC, he grabbed Dr. Harry
23 Carter and Dennis O'Neil, and he asked them to
24 help me. I never met those two before. They
25 became my mentors in that educational journey and

1
2 dear friends, but because of that intervention,
3 because they believed in me and showed me how I
4 could get in to a doctoral program, I became Dr.
5 Candice, and that is the power of mentorship.

6 All it takes is one small action to change
7 the future. So what will you do? How will you
8 mentor others and help them succeed. Success
9 starts with just a small action. Start small and
10 create the momentum. When we unify and come
11 together, we can leverage power and resources
12 that we don't have alone. Often organizations
13 and individuals, they're afraid to leverage
14 others for help. They're afraid that it makes
15 them seem weak, as if they failed on their own.
16 My friends, I am telling you, that is not the
17 case. That thinking needs to be changed.

18 Leverage others in the change process. We can do
19 so much when we come together. You accomplish so
20 much more as a team when you have that growth
21 mindset, and growth mindset, they are contagious.

22 I want to show you something. This bucket
23 of balls, this represents all the barriers that
24 we face -- Oh, Ed knows what's coming so -- This
25 represents all of the barriers that we face in

1
2 the fire service and in life. These barriers --
3 now don't trip. We don't need any more
4 incidents -- These barriers, they represent
5 everything that gets in our way as we try to
6 succeed. There's a lot of -- (balls were
7 thrown) -- in the fire service. So for me to go
8 and pick up these balls one at a time, would it
9 take me a long time?

10 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Yes.

11 DR. MCDONALD: Yeah, but what if I asked
12 you to get involved in that process and help me,
13 could we do it quickly?

14 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Absolutely.

15 DR. MCDONALD: All right. So this is
16 audience participation.

17 (Laughter.)

18 DR. MCDONALD: This is where I want you to
19 pick up a ball, hold onto it and keep it, and
20 then take it back to your seat. Come on. How
21 fast can we do it?

22 (Whereupon, everyone was picking up the
23 balls.)

24 DR. MCDONALD: Pass them to some friends.
25 If I had to pick up these balls on my own, it

1
2 would have been such a challenge. It would have
3 taken me forever, but when everyone takes one
4 small action, we can achieve so much. We can
5 overcome so many roadblocks. For those of you
6 that picked up a ball, take that ball home with
7 you and set it on your desk. If you have more
8 one, share it with a friend. Let it be a
9 reminder that when things get frustrating, don't
10 get sucked into the complaining mindset, focus on
11 the possibilities and the path forward.

12 As I wrap my conversation with you today, I
13 challenge you to go back to your fire department,
14 your communities, and do something every single
15 day to make their life better, to make the lives
16 of those around you better. Be the difference in
17 your community, and be the difference in your
18 lives. Flush the toilet.

19 I'm Dr. Candice McDonald, and it's been a
20 pleasure to share my story with you.

21 (Standing ovation.)

22 MR. TASE: Candice, you have been a true
23 mentor to me. Every conference I have gone to
24 and listen to you speak and be part of you, you
25 have been my mentor, and I say thank you from the

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bottom of my heart.

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DR. MCDONALD: Thank you.

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MR. TASE: Let's give Candice McDonald
another round of applause here.

6

(Applause.)

7

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MR. TASE: Very positive message there. We
truly, truly appreciate it, Candice.

9

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At this time, I would like to call upon the
chairman of the Fire Prevention and Life Safety
Committee to join me on the dais.

12

13

Mr. Kolb, you and your committee, please
join us.

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As John is approaching the podium, as
chairman of the Fire Prevention and Life Safety
Committee, they are here this morning to present
their Fire Safety Educator of the Year Award.

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19

MR. KOLB: First of all, I got something
for Ed. This is for you, sir.

20

MR. TASE: Thank you very much.

21

MR. KOLB: Good morning, everybody.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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MR. KOLB: At this time, we like to present
the Fire Educator of the Year Award, but first I
would like to introduce my committee. My

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2 co-Chair, Darryl Bernard, Lillian Beecher, Jack
3 DeLaney, Robert Schrader, Jan Jewett. He is not
4 here, because he is monitoring the election over
5 in the next room.

6 At this time, we would like to start with
7 reading of the letter for the winner of the
8 award.

9 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Before I read, my boss
10 says take a breath, so I am.

11 Greenwich Fire Department. "To Whom it May
12 Concern. As the fire chief of the Village of
13 Greenwich Fire Department, I would like to take
14 this opportunity to recognize one of my own
15 remarkable lifetime members, still an active
16 firefighter, and most importantly, a person that
17 dedicates his time to make sure our community is
18 safe from fires for 36 years.

19 I am nominating James Alheim for the 2024
20 Fire Safety Educator of the Year for his
21 leadership, passion to fire safety, and his
22 innovative ways he has helped our department be
23 the center of attention during a national fire
24 prevention week. He didn't stop there, he also
25 extended our fire prevention program to the

1
2 Cynthia Meadows Senior Housing and would put on
3 safety training education programs at our local
4 Greenwich Library. I am also proud to say that
5 Jim was a part of the original fire prevention
6 committee that built our fire prevention
7 education bus. He liked to call it our GFD Fire
8 Safety and Training on wheels. This bus is used
9 by several of our surrounding mutual aid fire
10 departments when we are not using them.

11 Jim had established his own preschool
12 business at his home by renovating his garage
13 back in 2004. This was a part time business of
14 his that he and his wife, Michelle, really cared
15 about to give back to our community and to make
16 sure our kids were well prepared to go into the
17 school system. It wasn't just the National Fire
18 Prevention week that he promoted and demonstrated
19 fire safety, it was every week when my own
20 daughter Courtney came home from his daycare to
21 share what she did and what she had learned from
22 him. She is now 23 years old and volunteers her
23 time to help out as an East End Greenwich EMS.

24 As you can see, Jim has touched many of us
25 in the community. More so, he's well known

1
2 across upstate New York for his passion to
3 educate and to make sure our children are always
4 safe."

5 We'll read another letter that was sent in.

6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: This is a letter from
7 Gerry Hearse, past chief of Greenwich Fire
8 Department. "To Whom It May Concern, I
9 wholeheartedly support the nomination of Jim
10 Alheim, Greenwich Fire Department, for FASNY Fire
11 Safety Educator of the Year. Jim's efforts span
12 more than 30 years in our organization. I was
13 chief of the department when Jim was originally
14 tasked to be part of the public awareness and
15 prevention initiatives. He evolved into a leader
16 and a champion and developed many of our
17 programs. The word -- comes to mind when I think
18 of Jim in a business where focus on operations
19 and incidents, he was able to dual focus and
20 recognize that the easiest entry into a home with
21 our message was through our youth. His yearlong
22 effort spread to include public education in our
23 business community, housing projects, and
24 community at large. His enthusiasm was
25 infectious, and he rallied members to understand

1
2 that the more senses you can involve in sharing a
3 message, the greater the increase of the
4 comprehension of that subject matter. He has now
5 spread the message over multiple generations, and
6 the impact is immeasurable. I can think of no
7 one else more deserving of this recognition. He
8 is silent hero and places our mission ahead of
9 his needs."

10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: And at this time, will
11 James Alheim from the Greenwich Fire Company and
12 his fire company please come forward to accept
13 the award.

14 (Standing ovation.)

15 MR. TASE: On behalf of the Firefighters
16 Association of the State of New York, thank you
17 for your dedication to public safety.

18 MR. ALHEIM: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. ALHEIM: Good morning.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

22 MR. ALHEIM: My ball -- It's pretty
23 overwhelming -- my ball says make it happen, and
24 I do.

25 (Applause.)

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MR. ALHEIM: I've got a great team of mentors. Chief Kevin Shepard, Past Chief Kevin Shepard, he told me when I was 22, and this is my daughter Faith, where is she? You didn't come up. That's my daughter, Faith. She's 22.

(Applause.)

MR. ALHEIM: My wife, Michelle, totally supported it all the way through. As you heard, we did start a preschool daycare to stay home with Faith when she was a baby, and we learned that the fire prevention saves lives. I think you all know that, every day. What Candice, Dr. Candice, just spoke about, you have to think outside the box, and at this generation, this age now, this is not just this year's award. This is a lifetime award, and I appreciate that. And Candice has really made me think today what we can do in the future with our current chief and his wife. Thank you, Faith.

A little broken up. I'm sorry. I'm very humbled. I'm very thankful for this award, and I will guarantee you that we will continue on with fire prevention in our community, and hopefully in New York State, and this group is amazing. It

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really is.

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And thank you so much for everything. I
appreciate that.

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(Standing ovation.)

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MR. TASE: One more round of applause.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: That's what it's all about.

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Thank you, and congratulations again.

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At this time, the Ladies Auxiliary of the
Firefighters Association of the State of New
York, President Kathleen Heighton, Toni Casey,
and Jane Trombley, would you please join us on
the dais.

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Kathleen, Toni, and Jane, welcome to our
annual convention. On behalf of myself, I want
to say thank you, Kathleen, for our partnership
over the last two years and working together as a
team, bringing the ladies and the men together,
sharing one another's ideas, thoughts, and
missions.

22

23

Thank you very much from the bottom of my
heart.

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(Applause.)

25

MS. HEIGHTON: Ed, it's been a pleasure

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working with you and your vice presidents also.

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I did do my due diligence this morning and went

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to vote. You have some good candidates, so I

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couldn't decide who to vote for, so I wrote my

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name. I'm hoping to follow Donnie Farrell.

7

(Laughter.)

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: For the record, that

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ballot doesn't count.

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(Laughter.)

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MS. HEIGHTON: But I've enjoyed working

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with FASNY. It's great to see that we have

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bonded with the ladies and the men and the ladies

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of FASNY. It's a pleasure to be in a group

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that's felt wanted, and thank you for your

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support. We are still selling tickets over

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there, but thank you, and Ed, it's over for us.

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We are going to be has beens.

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MR. TASE: But we've enjoyed the ride.

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MS. HEIGHTON: It's been one heck of a

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ride, but it was great you invited us to

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everything, and we felt part of it, so thank you.

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MR. TASE: Thank you.

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MS. HEIGHTON: Thank you for the friendship

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and that will continue.

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2 Gene, congratulations. I know you'll be
3 moving up, and I know the friendship between the
4 two groups will be as good as it was under Ed.
5 And Donnie, I'll still remember the convention
6 with the blue lights. That was fantastic, but we
7 created memories together, and we'll continue to.
8 You have a wonderful board. Keep supporting
9 them, because they can't do their jobs without
10 your support.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. CASEY: I will stand to the side. Next
14 year I'll be carrying a little stool with me, so
15 I can see over all the podium.

16 (Laughter.)

17 MS. CASEY: I was just going to get that in
18 before somebody else did.

19 (Laughter.)

20 MS. CASEY: I am so looking forward to the
21 next couple of years of being my president to
22 work with, and Donnie right behind him, I'm very
23 excited. I'm very excited for your board. The
24 last few years has been awesome, and you guys
25 know me for a long time, and you know I've come

1
2 up through all the other presidents, and we have
3 felt so welcome, so welcome with these men and
4 all of you. I look out here and friends of many,
5 many years, so I am very excited to be here with
6 you all, and any time you need us ladies, just
7 give me a call. I'm expecting my phone to be
8 ringing.

9 MS. HEIGHTON: It will.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. TROMBLEY: Good morning.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

13 MS. TROMBLEY: Welcome to the board, and
14 for Donnie, it's going to be a pleasure to work
15 with you -- I'm assuming I'm going to work with
16 you -- and I appreciate all that everyone does,
17 especially for the auxiliary, but just for the
18 state as well, and on behalf of LAFASNY, I'd like
19 to present you each with a journal for this year.

20 MR. TASE: Thank you very much.

21 MR. FARRELL: Thank you.

22 MR. PERRY: Thank you.

23 MR. TASE: I have two here, I owe you one.
24 On behalf of us, thank you. Jane, I'll get yours
25 to you before the day is out.

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MS. TROMBLEY: Okay.

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MR. TASE: I want to sincerely apologize that I did not make your luncheon yesterday to stop in and say hello and everything. I sent two replacements.

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MS. HEIGHTON: You had two wonderful esteemed -- that did talk to us, yes.

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MR. TASE: I apologize for that, but thank you very much, and thank you. We'll continue the working relationship with all, the whole team. I may be past president, but we'll still be together.

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MS. CASEY: We got your number.

15

MR. TASE: Thank you very much, ladies.

16

(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: Again, your past presidents that we have and the current leadership of this association. That's what's brought this mentorship back to fruition to where it should be in partnership.

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Thank you, ladies.

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At this time, I call upon Secretary John D'Alessandro for the report of the Resolutions Committee.

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Thank you, President Tase. We have 16 resolutions this year, so let's just get right into it.

Resolution Number One, "WHEREAS, the 152nd Annual Convention of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York is being held in Niagara Falls, New York,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the thanks of the Association be extended to the elected officials, convention speakers, invited guests, forum presenters, and representatives of the other fire service organizations in attendance."

Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of Resolution Number One.

MR. TASE: You've heard Resolution Number One, do I have a motion?

MR. AMMIRATI: I'll make that motion.

MR. TASE: I have a motion by Vinnie Ammirati.

Do I have a second?

MR. EWING: Second.

MR. TASE: I have a second by Scott Ewing.

Any questions?

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(No response.)

MR. TASE: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Anybody opposed?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Resolution Number Two,
"WHEREAS, the 152nd Annual Convention of the
Firefighters Association of the State of New York
is being held at the Niagara Falls Convention
Center, in the City of Niagara Falls, New York,

AND WHEREAS, this venue has accommodated
the needs of the attendees of this gathering,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the
thanks of the Association be extended to the
owners, management, and staff of the Niagara
Falls Convention Center."

Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of
Resolution Number Two.

MR. PERRY: You've heard the reading of
Resolution Number Two. Do I have a motion?

MR. CARON: Mike Caron makes that motion.

MR. PERRY: Motion by Mike Caron.

Do I have second?

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MR. GALVIN: Second.

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MR. PERRY: Second by Vincent Galvin.

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On a question?

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(No response.)

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MR. PERRY: All in favor?

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

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MR. PERRY: Anybody opposed?

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(No response.)

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MR. PERRY: The motion is carried.

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MR. TASE: Resolution Number Three,

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"WHEREAS, John P. Farrell, Jr., is dedicated to

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FASNY's mission of educating, informing, and

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training the volunteer fire and EMS services,

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AND WHEREAS, he has held numerous

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leadership positions, including that of Immediate

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Past President from 2022 to 2024,

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the

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officers and members of the Firefighters

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Association of the State of New York offer their

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heartfelt gratitude to Immediate Past President

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John P. Farrell, Jr.,

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AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the

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Association and the Board of Directors commends

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him for his service and that the membership

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affords her a rising vote of thanks."

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Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of
Resolution Number Three.

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MR. FARRELL: You've heard the reading the
Resolution Number Three. I'll entertain a motion
to accept.

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MS. PFERSICK: I make that motion.

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MR. FARRELL: Diana Pfersick.

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MR. SCHRADER: Second.

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MR. FARRELL: Second by Bob Schrader.

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Any questions?

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(No response.)

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MR. FARRELL: All in favor?

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

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MR. FARRELL: Opposed?

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(No response.)

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MR. FARRELL: Carried and so ordered.

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(Standing ovation.)

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MR. TASE: I received a message from John
yesterday morning. His cancer treatment that he
went home for was a little more than he thought
it was going to be, and please, let's continue to
keep John in our thoughts and our prayers.

Resolution Number Four, "WHEREAS, Jose

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2 DaRocha is dedicated to FASNY's mission of
3 educating, informing, and training the volunteer
4 fire and EMS services,

5 AND WHEREAS, he served as a Director of the
6 Firefighters Association of the State of New York
7 from 2017 to 2024,

8 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the
9 officers and members of the Firefighters
10 Association of the State of New York offer their
11 heartfelt gratitude to Director Jose DaRocha,

12 AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the
13 Association and the Board of Directors commends
14 him for his service and the membership affords
15 him a rising vote of thanks."

16 Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of
17 Resolution Number Four.

18 MR. PERRY: You've heard the reading of
19 Resolution Number Four; do I have a motion?

20 MR. FRAME: Walter Frame, Albertson Fire
21 Company, moves.

22 MR. PERRY: Motion by Walter Frame.

23 Do I have a second?

24 MR. OTTAVIANO: Robert Ottaviano.

25 MR. PERRY: Second by Robert Ottaviano.

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On a question?

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(No response.)

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MR. PERRY: All in favor?

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

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MR. PERRY: Opposed?

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(No response.)

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MR. PERRY: So carried.

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Congratulations, Jose.

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(Standing ovation.)

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MR. TASE: Resolution Number Five,

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"WHEREAS, Kathleen Heighton is dedicated to

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supporting FASNY's mission of educating,

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informing, and training the volunteer fire and

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EMS services,

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AND WHEREAS, she has held numerous

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leadership positions in the Ladies Auxiliary of

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the Firefighters Association of the State of New

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York (LAFASNY), including that of President from

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2022 to 2024,

21

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the

22

officers and members of the Firefighters

23

Association of the State of New York offer their

24

heartfelt gratitude to LAFASNY President Kathleen

25

Heighton,

1
2 AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the
3 Association and the Board of Directors commends
4 her for her service and that the membership
5 affords her a rising vote of thanks."

6 Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of
7 Resolution Number Five.

8 MR. FARRELL: You've heard the reading the
9 Resolution Number Five. I'll entertain a motion
10 to accept.

11 MS. HOLLAND: Marsha Holland.

12 MR. FARRELL: Motion by Marsha Holland.

13 Second?

14 MR. KISLACK: Mike Kislack.

15 MR. FARRELL: Michael Kislack.

16 On a question?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. FARRELL: All in favor?

19 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

20 MR. FARRELL: Opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. FARRELL: So carried.

23 (Standing ovation.)

24 MR. TASE: Resolution Number Six, "WHEREAS,
25 Rosemary Walsh is dedicated to supporting FASNY's

1
2 mission of educating, informing, and training the
3 volunteer fire and EMS services,

4 AND WHEREAS, she has supported the goals
5 and activities of the Ladies Auxiliary of the
6 Firefighters Association of the State of New York
7 (LAFASNY),

8 AND WHEREAS, she has held the position of
9 LAFASNY Director from 2019 to 2024,

10 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the
11 officers and members of the Firefighters
12 Association of the State of New York offer their
13 heartfelt gratitude to LAFASNY Director Rosemary
14 Walsh,

15 AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the
16 Association and the Board of Directors commends
17 her for her service and that the membership
18 affords her a rising vote of thanks."

19 Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of
20 Resolution Number Six.

21 MR. PERRY: You've heard the reading of
22 Resolution Number Six. I'll entertain a motion
23 to accept.

24 MR. SCHMIDT: David Schmidt moves.

25 MR. PERRY: Motion by David Schmidt.

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Do I have a second?

MR. DEMARCO: Anthony DeMarco.

MR. PERRY: Second by Anthony DeMarco.

On a question?

(No response.)

MR. PERRY: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. PERRY: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. PERRY: The motion is carried.

(Standing ovation.)

MS. SCHRADER: Resolution Number Seven,
"WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1.1, of the By-Laws
of the Association provides that the membership
shall have the opportunity to approve or reject
the annual budget for the Firefighters Home at
the annual meeting or convention,

AND WHEREAS, the Firefighters Association
of the State of New York Board of Directors has
submitted to this convention its budget for the
purpose of operating the Firefighters Home for
the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2024 and
ending September 30, 2025, in the sum of thirteen
million, four hundred and thirty-three thousand,

1
2 two hundred and fourteen dollars
3 (\$13,433,214.00),

4 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that there
5 be appropriated the sum of thirteen million, four
6 hundred and thirty-three thousand, two hundred
7 and fourteen dollars (\$13,433,214.00) for the
8 purpose of operating the Firefighters Home at
9 Hudson, New York, for the period commencing
10 October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2025."

11 Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of
12 Resolution Number Seven.

13 MR. TASE: You've heard the reading of
14 Resolution Number Seven.

15 Do I have a motion?

16 MR. LAPINSKI: Mike Lapinski, Monroe
17 County.

18 MR. TASE: Mike Lapinski from Monroe
19 County.

20 Do I have a second?

21 MR. DAROCHA: Jose DaRocha.

22 MR. TASE: Jose DaRocha makes a second.

23 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: On a question.

24 MR. TASE: On a question?

25 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: So just so everybody is

1
2 absolutely understanding here, the amount is
3 \$13,433,214.00. That's the motion.

4 MR. TASE: On a question?

5 (No response.)

6 MR. TASE: No questions?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. TASE: All in favor?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MR. TASE: Any opposed?

11 (No response.)

12 MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

13 MR. VAN ETEN: Good morning.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

15 MR. VAN ETEN: Resolution Number Eight,
16 "WHEREAS, Marilyn L. Schrader has been, and
17 continues to be, a friend and outspoken advocate
18 for the residents of the Firefighters' Home,

19 AND WHEREAS, she has served as a dedicated
20 member of the Firefighters' Home Board of
21 Trustees, including service as its President,

22 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the
23 officers and members of the Firefighters
24 Association of the State of New York offer their
25 heartfelt appreciation to Trustee Marilyn L.

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Schrader, who has served the residents of the
Firefighters' Home and this organization to the
best of her ability,

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the
Association and Board of Directors commends her
for her service and that the membership affords
her a rising vote of thanks."

Mr. Chairman, it is my honor to move the
adoption of Resolution Number Eight.

MR. TASE: You've heard the reading of
Resolution Eight. Do I have a motion?

MR. MCKINNEY: Tom McKinney.

MR. TASE: Tom McKinney makes the motion.

MR. SCHRADER: Second.

MR. TASE: Bob Schrader.

You've heard the motion. I have a motion.
I have a second.

Any questions?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

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(Standing ovation.)

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UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: We love you, Mom.

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(Laughter.)

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MR. VAN ETTEN: The reading of Resolution Number Seven, "WHEREAS, Dennis E. Eickhoff has been, and continues to be, a friend and outspoken advocate for the residents of the Firefighters' Home,

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AND WHEREAS, he has served for 10 years as a dedicated member of the Firefighters' Home Board of Trustees, including service as its secretary,

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the officers and members of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York offer their heartfelt appreciation to Trustee Dennis E. Eickhoff, who has served the residents of the Firefighters' Home and this organization to the best of his ability,

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AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Association and Board of Directors commends him for his service and that the membership affords him a rising vote of thanks."

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Mr. Chairman, I so move for the adoption of

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Resolution Number Nine.

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MR. TASE: You've heard the reading of

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Resolution Number Nine.

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MR. SUTTON: Motion.

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MR. TASE: Bob Sutton makes the motion.

7

Do I have a second?

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MR. KISLACK: Mike Kislack.

9

MR. TASE: Mike Kislack will make the

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second.

11

We have a motion. We have a second.

12

Does anyone have any questions?

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(No response.)

14

MR. TASE: All in favor?

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

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MR. TASE: Any opposed?

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(No response.)

18

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

19

(Standing ovation.)

20

MR. PERRY: Resolution Number Ten,

21

"WHEREAS, Kenneth and Barbara Pienkowski are

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dedicated to FASNY's mission of educating,

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informing, and training the volunteer fire and

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EMS services,

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AND WHEREAS, they have supported this

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mission in numerous capacities,

AND WHEREAS, they have devoted countless hours to make FASNY a nationally recognized organization,

AND WHEREAS, Ken Pienkowski has represented FASNY at the National Volunteer Fire Council,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the officers and members of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York offer their gratitude for their decades of service to FASNY,

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Association and the Board of Directors commends them for their service and that the membership affords them a rising vote of thanks."

Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of Resolution Number Ten.

MR. TASE: You've heard the reading of Resolution Number Ten.

MR. MCQUEEN: Brian McQueen.

MR. TASE: Brian McQueen makes the motion.

MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin.

MR. TASE: Jeff Martin.

I have a motion. I have a second.

On a question?

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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.

8

(Standing ovation.)

9

MR. PERRY: Resolution Number Eleven,

10

"WHEREAS, Thomas and Shirley Krawczyk are

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dedicated to FASNY's mission of educating,

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informing, and training the volunteer fire and

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EMS services,

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AND WHEREAS, they have supported this

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mission in numerous capacities,

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AND WHEREAS, they have devoted countless

17

hours to make the Gerard J. Buckenmeyer Memorial

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FASNY Volunteer Scholarship program an undisputed

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success,

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the

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officers and members of the Firefighters

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Association of the State of New York offer their

23

gratitude for their decades of service to FASNY,

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AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the

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Association and the Board of Directors commends

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them for their service and that the membership
affords them a rising vote of thanks."

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Mr. Chairman, I move for the adoption of
Resolution Number Eleven.

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MR. TASE: You've heard the reading of
Resolution Number Eleven.

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Do I have a motion?

9

MR. PILECKI: Andrew Pilecki.

10

MR. TASE: Andy Pilecki makes the motion.

11

Do I have a second?

12

MR. COHEN: John Cohen.

13

MR. TASE: John Cohen makes the second.

14

Anybody on a question?

15

(No response.)

16

MR. TASE: All in favor?

17

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

18

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

19

(No response.)

20

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

21

(Standing ovation.)

22

MR. TASE: They're in the back of the room.

23

Tom, congratulations.

24

MS. SCHRADER: Resolution Number Twelve,

25

"WHEREAS, the Firefighters' Home has provided a

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2 "home away from home" for thousands of
3 firefighters who gave dedicated and committed
4 service to the citizens of New York,

5 AND WHEREAS, the staff of the Firefighters'
6 Home exhibits extreme dedication and
7 professionalism on a daily basis,

8 AND WHEREAS, the staff of the Firefighters'
9 Home provides unparalleled care for the residents
10 of the Home,

11 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the
12 officers and members of the Firefighters
13 Association of the State of New York offer their
14 heartfelt appreciation to the staff of the
15 Firefighters' Home for all they do for the
16 residents of the Firefighters' Home and the
17 Association."

18 Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of
19 Resolution Number Twelve.

20 MR. TASE: You've heard the reading of
21 Resolution Number Twelve; do I have a motion?

22 MR. THOMAS: Marty Thomas.

23 MR. TASE: Marty Thomas makes a motion.

24 MR. FRAME: Walter Frame.

25 MR. TASE: Walter Frame makes a second

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motion.

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Anybody on a question?

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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: Any opposed?

8

(No response.)

9

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

10

(Standing ovation.)

11

MR. PERRY: Resolution Number Thirteen,

12

"WHEREAS, the officers, committee members, and

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staff of the Firefighters Association of the

14

State of New York exhibit dedication, commitment,

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and professionalism on a daily basis,

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AND WHEREAS, the officers, committee

17

members, and staff of the Firefighters

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Association of the State of New York enable the

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association to fulfill its mission to train,

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educate, and advocate for the volunteer first

21

responders across New York,

22

AND WHEREAS, the officers, committee

23

members, and staff of the association are a

24

primary reason that the Firefighters Association

25

of the State of New York is regarded as one of

1
2 the premier volunteer first responder
3 organizations in the country,

4 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the
5 officers and the membership of the association
6 offer their heartfelt appreciation to the
7 officers, committee members, and staff of the
8 Firefighters Association of the State of New York
9 for all they do on a daily basis."

10 Mr. Chairman, I so move for the adoption of
11 Resolution Number Thirteen.

12 MR. TASE: You've heard the reading of
13 Resolution Number Thirteen.

14 Do I have a motion?

15 MR. TRIPP: Tony Tripp.

16 MR. CARON: Second.

17 MR. TASE: Tony Tripp makes the motion.

18 Mike Caron seconds the motion.

19 All in favor?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

21 MR. TASE: Any opposed?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

24 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Resolution Number
25 Fourteen, "WHEREAS, the connection between

1
2 firefighters around the country and around the
3 world has existed since the beginning of the
4 organized fire service,

5 AND WHEREAS, this connection, commonly
6 known as the brotherhood and sisterhood, unifies
7 and solidifies the dedication and commitment that
8 firefighters everywhere have towards their
9 communities,

10 AND WHEREAS, the connection between the
11 Firefighters Association of the State of New York
12 and the South Carolina State Firefighters
13 Association is rooted both in history and in the
14 pursuit of effectively protecting the citizens of
15 their respective states,

16 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the
17 leadership and members of the association commit
18 to strengthening the bond between our
19 organizations and to designate the South Carolina
20 State Firefighters Association as a sister
21 organization."

22 Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of
23 Resolution Number Fourteen.

24 MR. TASE: You've heard the reading of
25 Resolution Number Fourteen.

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Do I have a motion?

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Motion.

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MR. TASE: Secretary John D'Alessandro
makes the motion.

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Do I have a second?

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MR. HOLMES: Right here, Ken Holmes.

8

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MR. TASE: Kenny Holmes will second the
motion.

10

Anybody have a question?

11

(No response.)

12

MR. TASE: All in favor?

13

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

14

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

15

(No response.)

16

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

17

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Resolution Number

18

Fifteen, "WHEREAS, events across the nation have

19

highlighted the danger and threats to the

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personal safety of our brothers and sisters in

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the volunteer and career fire service, volunteer

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and career EMS services, and the law enforcement

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community,

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AND WHEREAS, individuals in these

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professions in this state and throughout the

1
2 nation are routinely called upon to serve and
3 protect their fellow citizens by responding to
4 horrendous events and respond by acting
5 heroically to save the lives of others,

6 AND WHEREAS, they perform their duty while
7 frequently putting their own personal safety in
8 jeopardy,

9 AND WHEREAS, certain factions in society
10 have called for the disbanding or de-funding of
11 emergency services,

12 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the
13 officers and members of the Firefighters
14 Association of the State of New York, that they
15 declare their support and solidarity with the men
16 and women who serve, or who have served, in the
17 volunteer and career fire service, the volunteer
18 and career EMS service, and the law enforcement
19 community and who have earned our respect and
20 deepest gratitude for their efforts to serve
21 their fellow citizens."

22 Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of
23 Resolution Number Fifteen.

24 MR. TASE: You've heard the reading of
25 Resolution Number Fifteen.

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Motion in the center aisle?

MR. TRION: I, Marvin Trion, President of
Northern Central, do move for this motion.

MR. TASE: We have a motion.

Do we have a second?

MR. EICKOFF: Dennis Eickoff.

MR. TASE: Dennis Eickoff makes the second.

Any questions?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Resolution Number
Sixteen, "BE IT RESOLVED, that the officers and
members of the Firefighters Association of the
State of New York extend their sincere
condolences to the families of Joseph Maragliano
(Nyack Fire Department), Lamont Killian, Jr.,
(Mount Vernon Fire Department), Robert Boire
(Cumberland Head Volunteer Fire Department), and
Daniel DeWolf (Fairville Volunteer Fire
Department) on their passing,

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2 AND BE IT RESOLVED, that the officers and
3 members of the Firefighters Association of the
4 State of New York extend their sincere
5 condolences and extreme admiration to the family
6 of Past Chief Corey Comperatore of the Buffalo
7 Township Volunteer Fire Department in
8 Pennsylvania, who exemplified the qualities of
9 dedication and sacrifice that lie at the core of
10 the volunteer fire service,

11 FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that we extend our
12 eternal respect and gratitude to our brothers and
13 sisters who made the ultimate sacrifice in the
14 line of duty while protecting their communities."

15 Mr. Chairman, I so move the adoption of
16 Resolution Number Sixteen.

17 MR. TASE: You've heard the reading of
18 Resolution Number Sixteen.

19 MR. SCHRADER: I'll make a motion to
20 accept.

21 MR. TASE: We have a motion by Bob
22 Schrader.

23 MS. PFERSICK: Second.

24 MR. TASE: Diana Pfersick seconds the
25 motion.

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Any questions?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

(Applause).

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Mr. Chairman, that concludes the report of the Resolutions Committee.

MR. TASE: Thank you very much, John.

Thank you, everybody, for your participation and your involvement.

At this time, I ask to go to the center microphone the chairman of bylaws committee, Michael Caron, for a report, a report of the bylaws.

MR. CARON: Mr. President, there is no report.

MR. TASE: Thank you very much, Michael.

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Thank you, Michael.

I now ask is there any unfinished agenda

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items that we must address in this session?

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(No response.)

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MR. TASE: Hearing none, I'll call upon
Second Vice President Don Farrell.

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MR. FARRELL: Good morning, everyone.

7

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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MR. FARRELL: Just a few announcements
before we end the session this morning.

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Our Annual Two Percent forum will be held
this afternoon here in the main room beginning at
1:30 p.m.

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Last, tonight is the Annual Gerard J.
Buckenmeyer Memorial FASNY Scholarship Fund
Raffle from 7:00 p.m. to midnight, for desserts,
cocktails, and live dancing by a DJ.

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Tomorrow morning breakfast will be from
7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. here in the Grand
Ballroom. Breakfast is open to everyone who is
attending the convention. You do not need a meal
ticket for tomorrow morning's breakfast.

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Immediately following breakfast tomorrow
morning will be the installation of our new
officers and their acceptance speeches will take
place immediately after the breakfast at 9:00

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2 a.m. We encourage everyone to please attend the
3 installation of your new officers.

4 Our hands-on training will take place at
5 the Sanborn Fire Department from 8:00 a.m. to
6 4:00 p.m. tomorrow.

7 Our fire police training tomorrow morning
8 will begin at 10:30 a.m., and that will be held
9 here in the Grand Ballroom.

10 FASNY Annual Youth Day will be held
11 tomorrow starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Wheatfield
12 Fire Department Training Facility.

13 And finally, Saturday night will be our
14 Second Annual Testimonial and Special Recognition
15 Dinner held here in the main ballroom beginning
16 at 6:00 p.m. Just a note for all FASNY officers,
17 please wear your jacket and tie, because we are
18 honoring our fellow officers for their years of
19 service to FASNY and LAFASNY.

20 And by the way, I am not the tie police, so
21 please dress appropriately. It is a testimonial
22 dinner.

23 President Tase?

24 MR. TASE: Thank you, Donnie. Thank you
25 for your leadership and your guidance. We

1
2 appreciate it.

3 Before we recess this morning, I would like
4 to say a couple of thank yous to some of the
5 local departments here in Niagara County who have
6 bent over backwards to assist the success of the
7 152nd Annual Convention. That being Chief Robert
8 Hoover of the Sanborn Volunteer Fire Company for
9 hosting and collecting the supplies needed to
10 partner with the New York State Chiefs'
11 Association and your flashover training. Chief
12 Hoover has been a great asset to us, and we thank
13 him very much and his department.

14 The Frontier Volunteer Fire Company who's
15 hosting the Wheatfield Training Facility Youth
16 Day tomorrow morning.

17 A special thank you goes to the following
18 departments for providing the antique apparatus
19 on display in our exhibit hall, the Clarence Fire
20 Company, the Millgrove Fire Department, the
21 Wilson Fire Company, and the Wrights Corners Fire
22 Company.

23 Before we close this morning, I have one
24 request. Yesterday amongst the breakfasts and
25 events and stuff, there was a box of my

1
2 presidential challenge coins that was in the
3 room. Unfortunately, that box has come up
4 missing. So if everybody had seen that box or
5 knows of that box, if they could kindly return it
6 to us, we would greatly appreciate that very
7 much.

8 At this time, I'll ask for a recess until
9 3:30 this afternoon for the results of the
10 election.

11 John has a couple of more announcements. I
12 apologize.

13 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Thank you. I've been
14 asked to convey a couple of announcements.

15 Memorial candles, there's still a lot in
16 the room, so please pick them up, or if you know
17 somebody who's responsible to pick them up, let
18 them know.

19 There was a computer also that went missing
20 from the FASNY office. Somebody might have
21 inadvertently picked it up. It does have Chris
22 Roberson's business card and a luggage tag, so
23 spread the word.

24 Please, please, please visit the vendors
25 and the exhibitors. If they don't get a good

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showing, they're a little leery to come back next time. So even just walk through, talk to them.

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And then last but not least, please go and vote. It's been pretty light so far. So take a few minutes and cast your ballot.

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Thank you, Mr. President.

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MR. TASE: Thank you, Secretary D'Alessandro.

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And it's very important that we spend the time to network and meet your vendors out there that have given up their time to come here and be with us. They're not only vendors here, but they're sponsors of our mission of training, educating, and legislating the volunteer fire service. They deserve a walk by, say hello, and just say thank you very, very much.

18

19

I ask for a motion to recess until 3:30 for the results of the election.

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MR. DAROCHA: So moved.

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MR. GUARINO: Frank Guarino.

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MR. TASE: Jose DaRocha.

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Frank Guarino.

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On a question?

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(No response.)

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MR. TASE: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: So carried.

Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank
you.

(Whereupon, the convention was adjourned to
3:30 p.m.)

MR. TASE: Okay, if we could take our
seats, please.

We have reconvened for the results of the
election for the office of director and the
office of second vice president.

I will now call upon the secretary of the
association, the election inspector, to give us
the results of the election.

Mr. Secretary, will you notify the
membership of the results of the uncontested
candidates for office?

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: I need a motion
directing the secretary to cast one ballot on
behalf of the membership for the uncontested
races.

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MR. ROTHDIENER: Motion.

MR. CARON: Second.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Tom Rothdiener and Mike Caron.

So we have a motion made and seconded directing the secretary to cast one ballot on behalf of the membership for the uncontested races.

Anything on a question?

(No response.)

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: All those in favor say aye.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Passed.

So we only have about three hours of business before I give you the results.

(Laughter.)

MR. D'ALESSANDRO: So Mr. President, I am honored to cast one ballot on behalf of the membership of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York for the uncontested races of President Eugene Perry, First Vice President

1
2 Donald Farrell, Director Michael Karashay,
3 Trustee Doug Van Etten, Trustee Barbara Fischer,
4 Trustee Anthony Clark.

5 (Standing ovation.)

6 MR. TASE: Congratulations.

7 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: In terms of the two
8 races that were contested, one for a director's
9 seat on the board of directors and one for the
10 second vice president, I would like to welcome
11 Bob Ottaviano to the board.

12 (Applause.)

13 MR. D'ALESSANDRO: I would also like to
14 congratulate Ken Holmes.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. TASE: All right. Let's have order. I
17 know you're excited, but let's have order so we
18 can move on with our day. Okay.

19 We've heard the results of the election.
20 Do I have motion to recess until tomorrow morning
21 at 9:00 a.m.? Don, here in this room for the
22 breakfast?

23 MR. FARRELL: 7:00 to 9:00.

24 MR. TASE: Breakfast is 7:00 to 9:00 in
25 this room here. You do you not have to have a

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meal ticket to come in for the breakfast tomorrow morning.

I have one business thing to take care of. So be in here, and then at 9:00 a.m., we will start the swearing in and the installation of officers tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. in this room. Okay?

Now I need to have a motion to allow the secretary --

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER: Motion.

MR. TASE: Let's listen to the motion before we jump up and want to do things. Okay?

I need a motion to allow the secretary to destroy the ballots of the election.

MR. INTERDONATI: Motion.

MR. GALVIN: Second.

MR. TASE: Motion by Jimmy Interdonati.

Second by Vinnie Galvin.

Do we have any questions on that motion?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: All in favor? Signify by saying aye.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

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(No response.)

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

Now I'll take a motion to recess until
tomorrow morning.

MR. GUARINO: Motion.

MR. TASE: Frank Guarino.

MR. HASELEY: Second.

MR. TASE: Neil Haseley.

Anybody on a question?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. TASE: Any opposed?

(No response.)

MR. TASE: Carried and so ordered.

(Whereupon, the convention was adjourned to
August 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.)

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

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

THAT the above and foregoing contains a true and correct transcription of the proceedings held on August 9, 2024, at the Firefighters Association of the State of New York Annual Meeting, Niagara Falls, New York, and were reported by me.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand this 28th day of February, 2025.

JAMIE J. WOODARD

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1
2 OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE 152ND ANNUAL
3 MEETING OF THE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW YORK, HELD FROM THE 8TH DAY OF
5 AUGUST THROUGH THE 10TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024, AT
6 NIAGARA FALLS CONVENTION CENTER, 101 OLD FALLS
7 STREET, NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK.

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11 August 10, 2024
12
13
14

15 **B E F O R E:** EDWARD TASE, JR., President
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

24 Jamie J. Woodard
25 Court Stenographer

1

2

MR. TASE: Good morning. I would ask that
your cellphones and pagers are silenced now.

4

5

6

7

I would like to welcome you to the final
session of the 152nd Annual Meeting and
Convention of the Firefighters Association of the
State of New York.

8

9

At this time, I would like to call upon
Chaplain Barrie-Lyn Foster for the invocation.

10

11

(Whereupon, invocation by Chaplain
Barrie-Lyn Foster.)

12

13

14

MR. TASE: I call upon the
Sergeant-at-Arms, Juan Batta, to lead us in the
Pledge.

15

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17

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

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MR. TASE: Thank you. Please be seated.

I would like to thank everyone for your
support at the scholarship fundraiser last night.
I think we had a heck of a good time, a good
party.

23

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25

I now call upon Treasurer Emeritus Thomas
Krawczyk for a report of the scholarship, and if
anyone has a sectional or any other donations to

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the scholarship fund, please come to dais at this time.

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MR. KRAWCZYK: I would like to thank everyone for your participation in the scholarship raffle this year. This year we totalled \$7,870.00.

8

(Applause.)

9

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MR. KRAWCZYK: About three hundred dollars less than last year.

11

(Applause.)

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MR. KRAWCZYK: We had 90 baskets. Last year we had 30 more, so just for your information. The baskets that weren't picked up, there's four of them in the 107 office. Michael -- Elizabeth Schafer, and Tom Burke and Susan Burrell. And I also have gift cards that were not picked up, Kevin Sigler and Joseph Sparco.

19

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21

MR. TASE: If you think you know them, come and join us during the day, and we'll get you them.

22

23

MR. KRAWCZYK: And that is my report, Mr. President.

24

25

MR. TASE: Thank you.

Any donations? Bob McConville? Bob

1

2

Schrader?

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MR. SCHRADER: Hudson Valley is making a
donation to the scholarship fund.

5

MR. KRAWCZYK: Thank you.

6

MR. TASE: Thank you very much.

7

(Applause.)

8

MR. MCCONVILLE: Good morning. On behalf
of the FASNY Past Presidents, it's an honor and a
pleasure as always to donate to the scholarship
fund for \$1,500.00, and we thank you all for your
support on the scholarship fund.

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Thank you.

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(Applause.)

15

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: On behalf of the Nassau
County Volunteer Firemen's Association, I would
like to present you with a donation.

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(Applause.)

19

MR. TASE: We thank those organizations for
their donations to continue our mission of
awarding 25, \$1,500.00 scholarships across the
state.

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Let's give Tom and Shirley applause as a
team and all of the people that work on this.

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(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: They gave up a lot of the party time last night to manage and run that raffle, and a lot of time goes into that.

Thank you.

We are now ready to install our new officers.

It is my pleasure to call the association Counsel, Timothy Hannigan, to the dais to install our newly elected trustees of the Firefighters' Home, and could they please come to the dais at this time and the new FASNY Board of Directors and reelected members of the board.

MR. HANNIGAN: Good morning, and congratulations to you all. Everyone wants to be sworn in? All right.

(Laughter.)

(Whereupon, the Oath of Office was administered to the reelected FASNY Officers by Attorney Timothy Hannigan.)

(Applause.)

MR. TASE: Can we have our newly elected Second Vice President Ken Holmes join us on the dais.

(Applause.)

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MR. TASE: And could I also have Donnie's
father, Jim Farrell, join us on the dais.

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I now call upon our newly elected First
Vice President Donald J. Farrell, who will be
installed into office by his father, James
Farrell, past president of the Firefighters' Home
Board of Trustees.

9

MR. J. FARRELL: Good morning.

10

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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MR. J. FARRELL: Donald -- I've been
calling him that since he was five.

13

(Laughter.)

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MR. J. FARRELL: You've been duly elected
to the office of the Firefighters Association of
the State of New York. You have been chosen to
represent the members and lead them. They have
faith in you and your ability. I hope you
realize the seriousness and the obligations you
are now assuming. If you gladly and proudly
accept the office to which you have been elected,
you will now raise your right hand and repeat
after me.

24

25

(Whereupon, the Oath of Office of First
Vice President was administered to the Donald J.

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2

Farrell, by James Farrell.)

3

MR. J. FARRELL: Congratulations.

4

(Applause.)

5

6

MR. TASE: Can Kelly and the team for Ken Holmes join us on the dais, please.

7

8

Our next installation will be our new Second Vice President Ken Holmes, and joining him is his son, Kelly, and his father Pete.

9

10

Ken?

11

12

(Whereupon, the Oath of Office of Second Vice President was administered to Kenneth Holmes by Attorney Timothy Hannigan.)

13

14

MR. HANNIGAN: Congratulations.

15

(Applause.)

16

17

MR. TASE: Congratulations to both Donnie and Ken. Thank you very much. It's been a distinct honor to work with these gentlemen over my time. Thank you.

18

19

20

I now call upon newly elected president of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York, Eugene J. Perry to join me.

21

22

23

(Applause.)

24

25

MR. TASE: If Gene's family can join him, please. His wonderful wife, Kathy, Patrick and

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2

Chris, his sons, who are always by his side.

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At this time, he will be installed by
Ex-Chiefs Thomas Newham, Jr. -- please join us on
the dais -- Jon Parris, and Brian Ward. The
podium is yours. Thank you very much. Thank you
for being with us.

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EX-CHIEF NEWHAM: Good morning,
Mr. President. It is our esteemed pleasure to be
able to swear you in.

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(Whereupon, the Oath of Office was
administered to the newly elected President of
the Firefighters Association of the State of New
York, Eugene J. Perry, by Ex-Chief Thomas Newham
and Ex-Chief Jon Parris of the Patchogue Fire
Department.)

17

18

EX-CHIEF NEWHAM: Congratulations.

(Standing ovation.)

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MR. TASE: I would like to say
congratulations to everyone who was installed
here this morning, and I wish them the best of
luck in your term of office.

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It is my distinct honor to turn the gavel
of this association over to Eugene Perry.

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(Applause.)

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MR. PERRY: Before I begin my remarks, I'd like to thank Immediate Past President Ed Tase for his guidance, his friendship in showing me what this job is all about.

Ed, we've gone back. We started on the membership committee together, you were the chairman, I was the new person on the block, and we did some great things. I just want to thank you for that.

MR. TASE: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. PERRY: Reverend Clergy, Vice Presidents Farrell and Holmes, Immediate Past President Tase, directors, trustees, office staff, FASNY members, friends, and guests, when I joined the volunteer fire service on July 10, 1979, never in my wildest imagination would I have thought that I'd be standing here today before you as the 82nd President of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York.

I grew up directly behind the firehouse. Any time the alarm siren would wail, I'd hear doors open, the trucks start, and head out to

1
2 whatever emergency there was. I knew at a very
3 young age that I just had to be part of that.
4 Around the age of 15, I began stopping in the
5 firehouse when members were around, and I soon
6 was come to be known as the snot nosed
7 neighborhood kid who always showed up when there
8 was an alarm. It was then that I got to know
9 Ex-Chief Tom Newham Jr., and Ex-Chief Jon Parris.
10 Tom was the guy who was always doing something
11 around the firehouse, electric, plumbing,
12 building repairs. You name it. If there was a
13 work detail or an event, Tom was there. He
14 taught me electrical work, which I still use
15 today. As a company officer, Tom taught me the
16 basics of firefighting, from how to put on rubber
17 hip boots, a long coat, and getting a Scott air
18 pack on the proper way and also how to use the
19 not so proper way of using a Breslin distributor.

20 (Laughter.)

21 MR. PERRY: Jon was someone who I always
22 looked up to. He was a New York City
23 firefighter. He introduced me to the sport of
24 firematic drill team racing. I travelled with
25 Jon and the team to many drills across Long

1
2 Island and New York State. We won a couple of
3 state championships together, but as one of my
4 company officers, Jon always made sure that I was
5 properly prepared to take on any situation I
6 encountered in a fire building, as well as some
7 other situations, which we won't discuss here
8 today.

9 (Laughter.)

10 MR. PERRY: Tom, Jon, you've both taught me
11 all different the aspects of firefighting, about
12 leadership and life experiences. You both
13 started me on the path that has brought me here
14 today. You're my mentors, brother firefighters,
15 Chiefs, but most of all, lifetime friends. Thank
16 you both for making this long trip here to swear
17 me in as president of FASNY. I'll never forget
18 this. Also here is Ex-Chief Brian Ward. Thank
19 you very much for being here too.

20 I'm very fortunate here today, I have three
21 of my five living Ex-Chiefs from my fire company,
22 the Van Guard Hose Company, here with me today.
23 Chief of the Department, Frank Densing, Jr.,
24 First Battalion Chief Zibrim Banse, and the rest
25 of the members of the Van Guard Hose Company and

1
2 the Patchogue Fire Department, as well as my
3 adopted fire department, the Brookhaven Fire
4 Department and all the members from Nassau and
5 Suffolk County who made this trip, thank you so
6 much for your support. Would you all please
7 stand up and be recognized?

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. PERRY: I must also thank President
10 Vinny Ammirati and the officers and members of
11 the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters
12 Association, President Juan Batta, and the
13 officers and members of the Southern New York
14 Volunteer Firefighters Association, and all
15 sectional and county associations across the
16 state that have supported and encouraged me.

17 There is one person who has supported me
18 from the very beginning, that's FASNY Past
19 President Bob McConville. Bob, this all started
20 in 1995 at a county meeting in Setauket. You
21 introduced me to the likes of Donald "Cy" Walsh,
22 John Masem, Sr., Lou LaFountain, Edward
23 Carpenter, Joe Esposito, William Reilly, Wilbur
24 Ritter. After that came Ted Rosko, Richard
25 Vella, Jerry Owenburg, Chris Del Vecchio, Bob

1
2 Sutton, and Peter Cincotta, all outstanding
3 directors, trustees, and committee members. Bob,
4 I've said this many times, but it still holds
5 true today, we banter, we argue, and sometimes
6 get very loud with each other, but in the end, I
7 wouldn't be standing here today without your
8 unwavering support. Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. PERRY: Also, to Past Presidents Ken
11 Pienkowski, Steve Klein, and John Farrell, thank
12 you very much for your insights and advice. I've
13 learned a lot from all of you, and I know you're
14 just a phone call away if I should need you.

15 Just as firefighting has evolved, so has
16 the need for better mental and behavioral health
17 initiatives for New York's first responders. I
18 know this because I'm part of that need. I've
19 struggled with depression and anxiety for several
20 years. At one point, I was hospitalized because
21 I just couldn't cope. This is why the theme of
22 my presidency will be First Responder Mental and
23 Behavioral Health. Don't let a bad call or
24 situation control you, reach out. Seek
25 professional help. It's not a weakness. It's

1
2 okay not to be okay. I will establish a mental
3 and behavioral health committee made up of our
4 own first responders who will have expertise with
5 this. I hope that in the coming months we can
6 begin to remove the fear and stigma that comes
7 with this sometimes overwhelming feeling and help
8 our first responders believe in themselves.
9 Thankfully, with the support of FASNY, New York
10 has launched the First Responder Peer Support
11 Program, a pioneering two million dollar
12 initiative. More information on this program
13 will be available soon.

14 Now of course, I mentioned all these people
15 that have contributed to get me where I am today.
16 However, the biggest reason that I can stand here
17 today is because of the complete support of my
18 family. When I started becoming involved in the
19 Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters
20 Association, Patrick was three years old, and my
21 son, Chris, wasn't even born yet. There were
22 times when I missed their school concerts and
23 events, but I'm truly amazed of what they've
24 grown up to be. Both of you now are veteran
25 volunteer firefighters in the Brookhaven Fire

1
2 Department. Patrick has been department
3 secretary and currently serves as department
4 financial secretary. He's also the main daytime
5 driver for the department's engine nine. He
6 followed in my footsteps as an emergency services
7 dispatcher, first with the FDNY dispatching the
8 borough of Queens, and now at the Patchogue Fire
9 Department. Patrick, you're a better dispatcher
10 than I could have ever thought to be. I'm so
11 proud of your accomplishments.

12 Christopher has been on the department
13 training committee, teaching younger members how
14 to be an effective and strong firefighter. Both
15 of my sons are also NASCAR firefighters, working
16 at several tracks. Chris also has learned a lot
17 of vocations, such as carpentry, plumbing, and
18 automotive repair and is a counter manager for a
19 large electrical supply company. Chris,
20 sometimes you really can be my problem child --

21 (Laughter.)

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. PERRY: (Continuing) -- but I know that
24 there is nothing you wouldn't do for your mother
25 and myself.

1
2 Speaking of their mother, Kathy, I can't
3 begin to express how much you mean to me. For 34
4 years taking care of our home with two young kids
5 and working full time while I was out night after
6 night at meetings and events. The comment always
7 was, "What meeting is tonight, and are they
8 feeding you?"

9 (Laughter.)

10 MR. PERRY: You managed to keep everything
11 together, get the kids where they had to be, and
12 never complained about it. Well, maybe just a
13 little bit.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. PERRY: Thank you for your
16 understanding, but most of all, for your complete
17 support. I love you very much.

18 Again, thank you all for your continued
19 support as I begin this journey as your
20 president. None of this would have been possible
21 without all of you. You answer the call no
22 matter when. You're there for someone who's
23 having their worst day. You help and try to
24 comfort them. That's just what we do.

25 God bless you, continue to be safe, and

1

2

thank you for your support of the volunteer fire
service in New York State.

3

4

Thank you very much.

5

(Standing ovation.)

6

MR. FARRELL: Good morning, everyone.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

8

9

MR. FARRELL: It's a beautiful day to be
here in Niagara Falls for the installation of our
officers. I will keep this short like the table
over here to my right.

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(Laughter.)

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MR. FARRELL: Good morning, Reverend
Clergy, FASNY officers, family, friends, and most
importantly, you, the membership of the
Firefighters Association of the State of New
York. I am truly honored to stand before you as
your new first vice president of this great
organization. As we all know, just a few short
months ago I was appointed to the position of
second vice president due to then second vice
president Santo Chan Rivera making the difficult
decision to step down and focus on his health and
family. Please keep Chan in your thoughts and
prayers as he continues to battle many serious

1
2 health issues.

3 I would like to congratulate our new
4 Immediate Past President Edward Tase, Jr., on
5 doing a great job as president of our association
6 and immediate past president of the Board of
7 Trustees Marilyn Schrader for a great job of
8 serving 10 years on the Board of Trustees. Both
9 Ed and Marilyn have poured their hearts and souls
10 into their positions as presidents of the
11 respective boards. Their dedication and love for
12 the fire service is second to none.

13 I would like to congratulate our new
14 President Eugene Perry and our newly elected
15 Second Vice President Kenneth Holmes, Sr., and
16 our new Board of Directors and Trustees. I look
17 forward to working alongside President Perry,
18 Second Vice President Holmes, all board members,
19 President Doug Van Etten, Board of Trustees, our
20 Home Administrator Keith Henchey, but most
21 importantly, our residents of the Firefighters'
22 Home, who are sitting right over here, but most
23 importantly, I look forward to working with all
24 of you, our membership, and all volunteer
25 firefighters across the state of New York.

1
2 To President Toni Casey and her officers
3 and members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the
4 Firefighters Association of the State of New
5 York, over the next few years I look forward to
6 working alongside with you people also.

7 I need to thank the officers and members of
8 both the Hudson Valley and Westchester County
9 Volunteer Firefighters Associations for having
10 the faith and trust in me to fill the vacated
11 position of second vice president back in March
12 and to continue on to where I am today.

13 To the officers and members of my home
14 department, the Ossining Volunteer Fire
15 Department, and my home company, Cataract Hose
16 Company Number Two, I can't thank you all enough
17 for your support. I am truly honored to be part
18 of the best volunteer fire department in the
19 state of New York, and thank you all for making
20 the trip here to Niagara Falls.

21 In closing, to my biggest supporters, my
22 family. To my Dad, Jim Farrell, who is a true
23 mentor. I know years ago he so wanted me to
24 follow his path up to the Board of Trustees.
25 When I told him that that was not going to happen

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2

and that I wanted to go to the other board, the

3

Board of Directors, he just shook his head in

4

disbelief and asked why. My answer was simple,

5

because I believed that I would be a better

6

advocate for the members of the home and their

7

needs if I were on the Board of Directors.

8

To our children, Amanda, Mackenzie, and

9

Dan -- who we also know as Boxhead --

10

(Laughter.)

11

MR. FARRELL: (Continuing) -- thank you for

12

your support day in and day out. Last but not

13

least, my wife, Shelly, you are an amazing person

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who stands by my side each and every day, and you

15

allow me to do what I love to do, and that is to

16

put others first. We are a true family of first

17

responders in both fire and law enforcement. Now

18

that she has recently retired, I'm sure she's

19

more than thrilled to travel across the state of

20

New York with me.

21

(Laughter.)

22

MR. FARRELL: Thank you all for attending

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this morning, and I look forward to seeing

24

everyone this evening.

25

Have a great day, and God bless America.

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Thank you, once again.

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(Standing ovation.)

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MR. HOLMES: Good morning.

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AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

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MR. HOLMES: Before I get started, if

7

anybody remembers from yesterday morning, our

8

speaker, she threw a bunch of balls out in the

9

audience. My first one I grabbed was green for

10

Central New York.

11

(Applause.)

12

MR. HOLMES: It just said, "take a deep

13

breath." When I grabbed another one, it was

14

white. "Yes, I can do it."

15

(Applause.)

16

MR. HOLMES: Good morning, Past President

17

Tase, President Perry, Vice President Farrell. I

18

am proud to be up here this morning starting my

19

term as second vice president serving this great

20

organization and the boots on the ground

21

firefighters of our state.

22

First, I would like to thank President Tase

23

on his term as our president. Job well done. It

24

has been a pleasure working with our office

25

staff, and if you didn't already know it, we have

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the best staff.

3

(Applause.)

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MR. HOLMES: Thank you to Andrew and your team for always being there for all of us when we need it. It's been a pleasure working with our board members over the past years, and I'm looking forward to working with all of you in the future.

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14

I would like to thank the Westmoreland Fire Department for all its support throughout my campaign, and especially Commissioner Mike Johnson for organizing the charter bus trip that came out here yesterday to vote.

15

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19

I would also like to thank the Oneida County Firefighters Association and Central New York Firefighters Association for all of their support. They're all back there in the green coats if you didn't know.

20

(Applause.)

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MR. HOLMES: My dad, for whom I would not be here today for making me get out of Westmoreland and get involved in the different organizations. My son, Ken, Jr., for taking time out of his busy schedule to make the trip out

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2

here to the convention, and I'd be remiss if I

3

didn't mention Kelly, my best friend, travel

4

companion, and personal secretary.

5

(Laughter.)

6

MR. HOLMES: And I can't forget my good

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friend, Donnie Farrell, for all his help in my

8

campaign and for teaching us all that it's all

9

about having fun.

10

(Applause.)

11

MR. HOLMES: I'm looking forward to working

12

with Donnie and Gene on keeping this the best

13

firematic organization in the state.

14

And thank you Trustee Tom Rothdiener for

15

reading my endorsement speech.

16

Thank you, all. Looking forward to serving

17

all of you.

18

Have a good day.

19

(Standing ovation.)

20

MR. KARASHAY: Good morning.

21

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

22

MR. KARASHAY: Before I make my remarks, I

23

got thinking about my two friends that got me

24

started in bigger aspects of firefighting than

25

just the fire department, and that is dear

1
2 friends, John Mulligan and Tom McKay, who have
3 gone before us. It's all their fault that I'm
4 here.

5 (Laughter.)

6 MR. KARASHAY: I'm really thrilled to be
7 officially elected a director of this great
8 association. I am looking forward to serving on
9 the board and helping FASNY's future. I will
10 keep reminding myself that I am here for the
11 membership and that when important decisions need
12 to be made, I'm going to try to keep that in the
13 back of my mind. That's my bellwether for
14 testing whether a decision is good or bad, is it
15 good for the membership.

16 I am looking forward to working with
17 President Perry, First Vice President Farrell,
18 and newly elected President Ken Holmes.
19 Congratulations, gentlemen, and Ed Tase, thank
20 for your support. I appreciate what you've done
21 for me, and congratulations on being past
22 president.

23 MR. TASE: Thank you.

24 MR. KARASHAY: Also I'm looking forward to
25 working with the appointed officers, the office

1
2 staff, and my fellow directors and trustees of
3 the home.

4 I would be remiss if I didn't thank my
5 sectional organization, Hudson Valley, for their
6 confidence in me for having this important
7 position. I'd also like to thank the Ulster
8 County Volunteer Firefighters Association for
9 their support, as well as my home department of
10 Saugerties.

11 I also would like to thank my friends and
12 mentors, John Farrell, Chan Rivera -- and again,
13 please keep Chan in your prayers -- James
14 Hartwick, and Eric Orr for their support and
15 insight, and my convention travelling buddies,
16 Brian Martin and Roger Core, thanks for coming up
17 and being here with me. I appreciate it. My
18 wife, Cecelia. She's been very supportive. When
19 I told her I was going to run for the second time
20 for the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters
21 president position, she said no bitching.

22 (Laughter.)

23 MR. KARASHAY: Quite frankly, I failed in
24 that category, and I hope to do better here at
25 FASNY. So we'll see how it goes.

1
2 Finally to membership, I pledge my hard
3 work and commitment to this great association. I
4 appreciate the endorsements and the words of
5 encouragement along the way.

6 Thank you all very much, and have a great
7 day.

8 (Standing ovation.)

9 MR. OTTAVIANO: Good morning.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

11 MR. OTTAVIANO: I remember when I was here
12 the first time, it was a long time ago back in
13 Syracuse. It a was proud day.

14 Officers, directors, trustees, and members,
15 thank you for putting your faith in me. If it
16 wasn't for the Nassau County Executive Steering
17 Committee, the North Shore Fire Council, the
18 Nassau County Volunteer Firemen's Association,
19 the Southern New York Volunteer Firemen's
20 Association, my department, and I really want to
21 thank all the sectionals for your endorsements
22 and your support behind me.

23 Thank you very much. Hopefully, I'll be
24 able to live up to your expectations and do a
25 fantastic job.

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Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

MS. FISCHER: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MS. FISCHER: Presidents, Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, FASNY members, and friends, thank you to all who encouraged and supported me along my journey to become a trustee, especially Tom With, who has always supported me in everything I do. I love you. The youth in the fire service committee, who I've enjoyed working over the years and who are a great group of dedicated and hardworking members.

And thank you to my sons, Brian and Matthew, who always said, now what are you doing Mom? I would be remiss if I did not mention Trustee President Marilyn Schrader, who has always been there to answer any questions I had and encouraged me along the way. I truly appreciate your guidance and your friendship over the years. It will be a tough job to follow in your footsteps. The last time someone from Columbia County was a trustee of the home was from 1890 to 1912. His name was Colonel Charles

1
2 S. Rogers. He was a member of CH Evans Hose for
3 over 50 years. CH Evans, which was along Warren
4 Street in Hudson, New York. He was also an
5 honorary member of HW Rogers Hose Company, and
6 the son of Harper W. Rogers, whom the HW Rogers
7 Hose Company was named after. He was known in
8 firematic circles as the length and the breadth
9 of this state. In 1880, Mr. Rogers became a
10 member of the state firemen's association when it
11 was in its infancy. Ten years later, he was
12 elected president. In 1888, when the first plans
13 were being made to the establishment of the state
14 firemen's association home, he was appointed to
15 the original committee and served until the home
16 became a reality. He was elected and served as a
17 trustee serving a span of over 20 years. Mr.
18 Rogers received the title of Colonel from
19 Governor Roswell P. Flower and was appointed as a
20 member of the Governor's official staff in 1894.

21 So I have been waiting since 1912 --

22 (Laughter.)

23 MS. FISCHER: (Continuing) -- to be the
24 next trustee of the home from Columbia County,
25 and I think I've held up pretty well.

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(Laughter.)

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MS. FISCHER: I look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, Keith Henchey, Jane Redding, and the entire staff of the Firefighters' Home to continue on the path of keeping the Firefighters' Home our special home away from home.

Thank you.

(Standing ovation.)

MR. CLARK: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. CLARK: Past President Tase, newly elected Presidents Perry, Farrell, and Holmes, to our officers, clergy, to our directors, our trustees, and members, I want to thank you for electing me to the home Board of Trustees.

I've always been a strong supporter of the home, and giving me the opportunity to serve as a trustee gives me a chance to help keep the excellent facility that it is, and I look forward to working with the rest of the board.

I want to mention, several years ago when I attended my first convention, and being from a small rural department and meeting the larger

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2 groups from the other sectionals, it was a little
3 intimidating, but everyone here made me feel at
4 home as an equal, and we're one big family.

5 I would like to thank -- he's not here --
6 Ken Pienkowski for appointing me to the
7 membership committee. We have done our best
8 retaining and recruiting membership, and it was a
9 very useful experience, and I enjoyed working
10 with the rest of the committee.

11 I would like to thank my sectional
12 organization for their support, especially Joe
13 Finnegan, Bill Grant, Tom Arsenault, Laurie
14 Hance, and Dennis Eickoff. And I just wanted to
15 mention a couple of people that have gone before
16 us that were very knowledgeable and appreciate
17 their guidance was Bruce Buckingham, Jim Cahey,
18 Wayne Kelson, and Bernie Pulio.

19 My greatest thanks for my family, my wife,
20 Donna, my daughters, Melissa and Katherine, and
21 to my second family, my department members, for
22 their continuing support.

23 Again, thank you all, and I will do my best
24 to fulfill the duties of home trustee.

25 (Standing ovation.)

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MR. VAN ETTEN: Good morning.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good morning.

MR. VAN ETTEN: This is my 2019 speech. Where did the time go? Good morning, President Perry, Vice President Farrell, Vice President Holmes, to my fellow trustees, members of the Board of Directors, friends, and fellow association members, it's with pride and gratitude that I stand before you reelected as a trustee for our Firefighters' Home in Hudson. Congratulations to all those who have been elected today, and I look forward to working with everyone. That's how I started in 2019. If you had told me five years later we would have lived through all the change, all the experiences that we have been through, I would look at you with wonder, how could that be possible? And yet five years later, we stand here together having left some behind, but moving forward together, stronger, working to be better every day. Don't forget our mission. So I'm going to say thank you to Mike, Ken, Mayor Billy, thank you for being here today as I accept my second term as trustee. To Sue, to Ed, to Corey, to

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Administrator Henchey, I'm going to do my best to help make things better.

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Thank you for what you do every day to make it a great day at the home. It's an honor and privilege. Don't forget the mission. Keep moving forward.

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Thank you.

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(Standing occasion.)

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MR. PERRY: I would like to take this opportunity to extend thanks to FASNY's leadership, to the convention attendees, our committee people, and our staff for making FASNY the great organization that it is. We greatly appreciate your support of FASNY and the Firefighters' Home.

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We look forward to seeing everyone this evening at the testimonial and special recognition dinner. Cocktail hour begins at 5:00 p.m.

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Before we go, I would like to call on Secretary D'Alessandro to the podium.

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(Applause.)

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MR. D'ALESSANDRO: Thank you, President Perry. I just wanted to take a minute or so to

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2 let everybody in the room know that we have been
3 the recipient of two national awards recently.
4 One, for the magazine, and one for a TV
5 commercial called Faces. We started a
6 partnership with Rueckert Advertising about a
7 year and a half ago, and the fruits of that
8 partnership are here before you. The reason I
9 wanted to show everybody these is that we all
10 share in these awards. The simple fact you're
11 here at the 152nd Annual Convention is proof of
12 that. We're going to continue to take FASNY's
13 efforts on behalf of the volunteer fire and EMS
14 services to even higher lengths. I encourage you
15 if you have any ideas, any suggestions you want
16 to contribute to the magazine, don't hesitate,
17 give me a call. Give Rueckert a call. We want
18 participation, because that really is the
19 foundation of FASNY for the last 152 years. So
20 I'm going to leave these up here if anybody wants
21 to take a peek at them when we're done.

22 Be safe, travel home, and let's get back to
23 business.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. PERRY: At this time, I would like to

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call our Chaplain Barrie-Lyn Foster back to the
dais for a closing prayer.

(Whereupon, closing prayer by Chaplain
Barrie-Lyn Foster.)

MR. PERRY: At this time, I will entertain
a motion to close the 152nd Annual Meeting and
Convention of the Firefighters Association of the
State of New York.

MR. TASE: Immediate Past President Ed Tase
makes that motion.

MR. PERRY: Ed Tase makes the motion.

MR. C. PERRY: Second.

MR. PERRY: Chris Perry.

On a question?

(No response.)

MR. PERRY: All in favor?

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. PERRY: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. PERRY: The motion is carried.

(Standing ovation.)

(Whereupon, the convention was concluded.)

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

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

THAT the above and foregoing contains a true and correct transcription of the proceedings held on August 10, 2024, at the Firefighters Association of the State of New York Annual Meeting, Niagara Falls, New York, and were reported by me.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand this 28th day of February, 2025.

JAMIE J. WOODARD

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