

**FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
137<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2009 – 9:00 AM**

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: We would like to get started for our business meeting. I would like to call upon Reverend Wayne Jagow for the Invocation.

INVOCATION BY CHAPLAIN WAYNE JAGOW: Good Morning. This morning I would like to recognize two individuals who have been an inspiration to me and I think to this Association in two different ways. One is Don Fox who passed away this passed year and really went through an awful ordeal as far as struggles and certainly set an example of what it means as far as courage in a whole different direction. And the other is one of our members of our committee, our Convention Committee who was also the Chair of the Firefighter of the Year who took a great deal of pride in that, his name was Charlie Kraft. He endured an awful lot as well and he was called home this past year also and think it is fitting that we remember them as we set aside an example of all that is good in the Fire Service as we recognize those individuals who are truly the standards of who and what we are. Let us pray, Lord God our heavenly Father in this morning hour as we celebrate what it is to be in your service, may your blessing be upon us as we recognize those individuals who do the ultimate, where there to lay down their lives so others might live. Be with us in this Association bless us with your presence and with your guidance. Help us that truly there maybe for us new dreams and new hopes as we continue old traditions. May your blessing truly be felt among us in this morning hour and on this day in your Name. Amen.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Thank you, Wayne. Pledge of Allegiance by Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Wink Kelsey.

ASSISTANT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WINFIELD "WINK" KELSEY: (Led the assembly in the Pledge to the Flag)

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Thank you, Wink. Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, "Do we have a Quorum?"

ASSISTANT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS WINFIELD "WINK" KELSEY: Yes, Mr. President we have a quorum.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Thank you. I would like to call this session to order and I would like to welcome everyone to the second session of the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. We know the fire exits, but let's review again. At the end of building, they are marked and you will be notified by us and if you see us leaving quickly, follow suit. President Cuff requests that the members of the Board of Directors please remain in the room for a brief discussion at the end of this morning's session. So, at the end of the Firefighter of the Year, we are asking for the Board of Directors to join us up here on the stage for a quick discussion. I would like right now to introduce Ed Beekman representing the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company to present a check to the FASNY Museum of Firefighting and is a Volunteer Firefighter with the Resolute Hose Company #1 in Sayville and I call upon Museum Treasurer, David Quinn to receive the check.

EDWARD BEEKMAN: Thank you once again for giving me the opportunity to speak again about the FASNY Liberty Mutual Group Savings Plus Program. In a year scared with huge corporate loses, drastic cuts and other similarly bad financial news, I am proud to announce that the big check that Liberty Mutual gives FASNY every year, got bigger this year. Last year the Liberty Mutual Program generated \$9,000 in proceeds and as you can see this year it exceeded \$21,000. [Applause] So, as more and more FASNY members look into what the Liberty Mutual Program can do for them, the larger the check grows. This is all about saving money on auto and homeowner insurance and even if you are all set, many members of your departments maybe able to use this FASNY benefit and I encourage you to come by

and pick-up a packet of information to take back to your members and see how the program can possibly benefit you and your family. Thank you for your time. [Applause]

DAVID QUINN: I want to thank Liberty Mutual again for this contribution. These contributions help the Museum meet their goal of accreditation in our State Charter with the Education Department with our crucial Fire Prevention and Education Programs. So, thank you very much, Ed.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Very nice, thank you once again, Ed Beekman of Liberty Mutual, nice job. Yesterday we postponed a couple of the reports and we are going to start right in this morning. If you haven't noticed, out there on some of the counters there is the Niagara Regional paper, The Buffalo News and the President will be signing these later on autographing them after and I have to commend the Public Relations, they have done an excellent job on doing the PR for this Convention and its making the firefighters and the Convention Committee and the Local Convention Committee make them look good. I would like to start the Annual Reports with the Annual Message of our President, Thomas J. Cuff, Jr.

### **ANNUAL MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT**

PRESIDENT CUFF: Good morning. Before giving my report, I would like to say how proud I am to stand before you as your President. How proud I am of our Association, the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. How proud I am of our Vice Presidents David Jacobowitz and Joe Kelly, our Secretary Michael Whelan, our Treasurer Tom Krawczyk, Chief Administrative Officer David Quinn, our Directors, our Committee Chairs and members who worked so hard to continue the tradition of Service to the Volunteer Fire Service of the State of New York. I am equally proud of Home Trustees President John Montrose, Vice President John Farrell, Secretary Steven Klein and all the Trustees who never faltered in their efforts to insure the undiminished level of care for our member of the Home. I am particularly grateful of the professional staffs at 107 Washington and at the Home, whose great work ethic made all of this possible.

I take great pride in the manner in which you all reacted and responded during our very nearly catastrophic fiscal dilemma of 2009. I would be remiss if I did not also mention those of you who had to be separated from our committees and those on committees which were eliminated. Almost to a man or woman, you responded by offering to continue your service without recognition or support. I salute all of you and thank you for your unselfish service to the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. As any right thinking President should say, a lot of people are responsible for my standing here shaken, but confident of our continued success on behalf of our Volunteer Fire Service. Thank you all for your service for 2009.

Reverend Clergy, Honored Guests, Officers and Directors of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, Officers and Trustees of the Firemen's Home, FASNY Members and Guests. It is with great pride that I stand before you to give you the President's Annual Report. To say this has been an eventful year would be a gross understatement.

Obviously, the most outstanding issue of my Presidency was and continues to be the severe assault on our financial position as a result of conditions over which we had no control. One can't imagine the literally sinking feeling of watching powerless as our finances evaporated before our very eyes. Hope for turnaround or at least hitting bottom were dashed as week after week their value kept dropping. Finally, we found ourselves in a very untenable position and had to take drastic and very unpleasant steps to "stop the bleeding". Sadly, many people were affected. Our presence in the firematic community suffered and some services were curtailed. Presently we are very cautiously observing a slow but apparently solid recovery is taking place. One cannot realistically expect a full recovery to our previous highs, at least anytime soon. However, we have taken steps to ensure that our financial position is much less vulnerable to the wild swings of the investment world. This comes at the expense of a quicker recovery.

We have been taught a very valuable lesson by all of this and awakened from a fiscal position which we were very comfortable working within only to find how extremely fragile that position was. I cannot pledge to you that our position will fully recover, but I can pledge and I think I can speak for my

colleagues, trustees and directors that we will never again allow ourselves to be so blinded by the "good times" as to be unaware of the possibility of the "bad times".

While all this was taking place FASNY continued to pursue its various agendas in training, legislative oversight and the sound operation of the Home.

I attended numerous meetings with our boards, other organizations, the government and various consultants and advisors. Many telephone calls, and incredible number of e-mails back and forth and other correspondence were made to keep lines of communications open.

I am very pleased to report that the officers of both the FASNY Board and the Home Trustees Board meet fairly regularly to discuss issues of concern to both Boards. This has been very fruitful and I commend all involved for their sincere participation.

An alliance of the Association of Fire Districts, the Association of Fire Chiefs and FASNY, started under past President Michael Wutz, it was strengthened so as to safely say we now speak with one voice. Fairly regular meetings are held between these three Associations and constant communications are kept up to keep us on the same page.

Disappointment was the keyword as far as the New York State Legislature was concerned. It took them five months to repeal a purely nonsensical law directly exposing firefighters, career and volunteer to charges of violations of law and liability for damages each time they drove a drive apparatus other than an emergency if they did not possess a Commercial Drivers License, which very few did.

However, it took them only about a week to pass a poisonous bunch of laws with potential of destroying the Volunteer Fire Service as we know it and initiated by a sprinkling of "voters". It also included language as well to provide for the possibility of eliminating any city, village and town if the County Legislature chose to. While these steps ultimately require a mandatory referendum, given today's uninterested voters, a radical minority could accomplish it. Once the process was started, very expensive legal and administrative expenses would be incurred regardless of the outcome. In a cowardly fashion, the bill was introduced over the Fourth of July Holiday, rammed through the Assembly and only because of Fire Service intervention has a slightly bumpier ride in the Senate before it was passed and signed by the Governor, and in record time. In true New York Legislature fashion, a minimum of debate, absolutely no consultation or even notice to services affected, this largely unread travesty succeeded. There was never even a possibility that this bill would not only pass, but pass without one syllable being changed in the process. We along with the Fire Service Alliance, I spoke of earlier will make every attempt to modify this law to lessen its impact on the Volunteer Fire Service prior to its effective date in March 2010. Other legislative activity is reported in our Legislative Committee Report and the Report of our Legislative Representative, Kirby Hannan.

I am pleased to report that our training programs continued as before and were extremely successful as well as our seminars on Code Enforcement. Although some sessions had to be cancelled due to lack of registrants, other sessions went very well. Our EMS offerings were also well attended and also were very successful.

We also made two very important additions to our Executive staff in the hiring of Ms. Susan Gordon as FASNY Director of Human Relations and more recently, Mr. John Tucker as FASNY Director of Finance. Both of these persons bring considerable background and expertise in their respective fields and will allow our management team to focus more closely on those areas and devote the attention to them that they deserve. We welcome them aboard. Bring your own life jackets.

Our membership is growing, it stands at 46,000. I attribute this to our full membership program as well as a great deal of hard work by our Membership Committee, our Secretary and our office staff who are managing this huge number of members, companies and associations. I commend them all for their tireless efforts.

Our other accomplishments can be found in the various committee reports and I also commend all the Committees for their efforts.

In closing, I must look forward and I must say there is a little fog out there, but with the team of Officers about me, the Directors and Trustees, Committees and Office Staffs, I am firmly convinced of and dedicated to the advancement of the principles, ideals and the goals of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York and we will succeed. Come with me and help us get there. Thank you. [Applause]

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: For the Annual Report of the Secretary of FASNY, Michael D. Whelan.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

SECRETARY MICHAEL WHELAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, delegates, members and guests. Since the 2008 Convention in Rochester [Monroe County], New York there have been twelve meetings of the FASNY Board of Directors.

FASNY maintains a copy of minutes [verbatim transcript] of the previous annual meeting of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York [the FASNY Convention]. This transcript is provided by Kathy Perry of Shirley, New York [Suffolk County]. John Dugan when he is there helps her out in getting all of our names correct.

A copy of the transcript of the annual meeting as well as the name of the delegate and alternate of all member organizations, information on previous Conventions, award winners, names and addresses of all officers, directors, trustees and committee members, current by-laws and certificate of incorporation are available in electronic format [PDF] upon direct request of the Secretary of the Association.

The Report of the Secretary in its entirety is included in the Book of Reports which I encourage each and every one of you to pick up in the Registration Office.

As Secretary of FASNY, I have the duty to maintain the corporate records and all of the records and documents are kept at the FASNY office at 107 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York. Copies of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York federal income tax returns, form 990; the application for 501C3 tax exempt status and the IRS letter of determination are available at the office upon request and there is no charge for any copies of that document.

Notice of this Meeting of the Membership, the 2009 Convention was prominently advertised in the July and August issues of the Volunteer Firefighter. Copies of the magazine are mailed free of charge to every individual and organizational member of FASNY.

Mr. Chairman, the Annual Report of the Directors of FASNY.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD DIRECTORS**

SECRETARY MICHAEL WHELAN: In accordance with New York State Law the Annual Report of the Directors of FASNY for a 12-Month period ending June 30, 2009 is here by provided:

THE 12-MONTH FISCAL PERIOD ENDING

**June 30, 2009**

UNDER

SECTION 519 of the NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION LAW

To: The Members of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York:

The Board of Directors respectfully submits for your information the following report related to **The Firemen's Association of New York** for the twelve month fiscal period ending June 30, 2009:

1. The assets and liabilities, including trust funds (listed separately), of the corporation as of the end of said fiscal period are as follows:

For the 12-month period ending 6/30/09:	Assets Total	\$50,889,890
	Liabilities Total:	\$ 2,381,395
	Trust Funds Total:	\$ N/A

2. The principal changes in the assets and liabilities, including trust funds of the corporation during said fiscal period were as follows: The principal change in assets resulted primarily from investment losses and grants from the FASNY Foundation to support the Firemen's Home construction project. The assets and liabilities for 6/30/09 are reported exclusive of FASNY's interest in the FASNY Foundation and Real Estate Holding Company reported separately at a combined net value of approximately \$89,000,000. Net investment losses of approximately \$940,000 are included in the expense totals resulting in an overall decrease in net assets for the period.

3. The revenue (or receipts) of the corporation, both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes, during said fiscal period were as follows:

Unrestricted Revenues (or Receipts) Total	\$16,785,458
Revenues (or receipts) Restricted to Particular Purpose Total	\$ N/A

4. The expenses (or disbursements) of the corporation, for both general and restricted purposes, during said fiscal period were as follows:

Expenses (or Disbursements) for General Purposes Total	\$15,983,641
Expenses (or Disbursements) for Restricted Purposes Total	\$ N/A

5. Concerning the membership of the corporation:

(a) The number of members as of June 30, 2009 is 46,713.

(b) The number of members **increased** by 559 during the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

(c) The names and places of residence of the current members may be found in the books of the corporation, which are kept at the Firemen's Association of the State of New York office at 107 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12210.

This report has been prepared pursuant to Section 519 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law and it is dated and signed by Thomas J. Cuff, Jr., Thomas Krawczyk, Treasurer on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Niagara Falls. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Thank you, Michael. The Annual Report of the Treasurer of FASNY, Thomas L. Krawczyk.

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

THOMAS KRAWCZYK: Reverend Clergy, Mr. President, officers, members and guest. My report is also in the Convention Booklet available at the Registration Office. I would like to make a few comments on our significant change in our investment policy that we under took this year. Previously our investment managers were Pinnacle and Associates out of New York City and had been dealing with them for about twenty five-thirty years and Pinnacle had purchased individual stocks and individual bonds for us throughout their period with us. Our change this year involved interviewing several investment companies and the Board decided to go with the Alesco and Company out of Pittsford, New York. Alesco is a different type of Investment Company, they only buy index funds. Index funds are like mutual funds, they are index funds for small caps, for med caps, for large companies, for international funds, for different bonds, different corporate bonds and government bonds. In an effort to minimize the highs and the lows of the investments that we were experiencing this past year, this is taking an average of these stocks and bonds and also Alesco we have a reduced fees that we were paying Pinnacle with and this concludes my report Mr. President.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Thank you, Tom. It has been a very difficult year for all of us. For the Report of the Chief Administrator Officer, David A. Quinn.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

DAVID QUINN: Good Morning. Reverend Clergy, honored guests, Officers and Directors, Trustees of the Firemen's Home and especially FASNY members that are here with us today.

I think back to our Convention in Rochester and realize I had no idea what was about to befall our Association, our staff and myself personally and professionally in just two months from Convention time last August. To say that this past year was filled with crisis, surprise and unpredictable situations all of which would require an incredible amount of time, thought and attention would be an understatement. I agree with President Cuff in saying that it would be a gross understatement to say this has been an uneventful year. But, here I stand before you a year later and believe it or not despite being pulled in multiple directions and assuming a myriad of additional tasks and duties for the past nine months, I actually gained fifteen pounds! That is true, Michael I actually did. I probably owe that to someone's good cooking or maybe my body just figured I was being stretched too thin and need more to stretch.

I take a great amount of pride in telling you that the staff of your Association reacted and responded to a plethora of situations with a display of true volunteerism, quick, efficient and jumped right in when my time was suddenly split between my duties as your Chief Administrative Officer and as the Interim Director of Finance in December. I attribute this to not only our staff in Albany, but our business office staff in Hudson as well. My car soon was able to drive itself between Hudson and Albany on what I call the Riverview Expressway, Route 9J during the countless trips back and forth. With a lot of effort, our accounting and business office staff at the Home not only kept our daily, weekly and monthly finance in check and in motion, but worked with me as a team to begin making improvements on financial operational efficiency. This efficiency will without a doubt in my mind be even further enhanced with our new Director of Finance, John Tucker, I welcome him aboard. I would be remiss, if I did not mention the great effort Ann Montag made during this transition period in keeping our accounting records up to date for FASNY, the Home and the Museum. She was and remains the stability of our accounting department and should be commended for her efforts. We are lucky to have her and I believe John Tucker would certainly agree.

While all of this was going on, President Cuff assigned me to a committee in conjunction with the two Vice Presidents, our Treasurer and Secretary to review and analyze our financial bleeding situation. It was a daunting task and some very tough decisions would need to be made by the FASNY Board of Directors once our analysis was complete. This was difficult for the Board in that the entire philosophy of previous financial decision making was now flipped around to become a complete 180 degree turn from what it had been for past Boards. In addition, the Board need time to get a grasp of our dilemma and what needed to be done. The financial crisis affected everything and change was knocking at our door with a loud thud. Decisions were made by the Board to the best of their ability. Some of these decisions were unpleasant, some were clear and obvious, and some were considered necessary. They did work Association and Firemen's Home costs gradually decreased. Even though this has been a financial Crisis in our economy and for FASNY, this is not to say that nothing positive has come out of this experience. This crisis has afforded the FASNY leadership to review the organizations financial standing and expenditures and to make our leadership make decisions that will benefit the Association financially in the long term. Regardless of the economic uncertainties now or in the future, FASNY will continue to review and monitor our finances to ensure the wise expenditure of funds and also to ensure the longevity of our Association.

As if juggling two fulltime positions simultaneously wasn't enough we also embarked on moving the entire FASNY office operation to the first floor of our building in Albany. After months of planning and coordinating the space was moderately reconfigured with the assistance of Conley Associates and in May of this year our operation was moved, it was nothing short of amazing to me that all that furniture, equipment and files could be packaged, moved reassembled and unpacked in a two day period. The move not only allowed for consolidation of our business office in Hudson, which will soon join our team in Albany, it provided for future needs of FASNY as well. All of our staff in Albany should be recognized for this massive effort. Jason in particular did a tremendous job in coordinating and actually running wiring for the computers and phones throughout the new office space amongst other details in relation to FASNY computer and electronic systems. Another major project was out of the way.

So, here we are a year later, much has happened, many accomplishments have occurred as noted in our Committee and Officer Reports and we will continue to meet the endeavors set before us. There have been disappointments, our State Legislature for one, but there have also been great strides amongst a changing FASNY. We will continue to meet these challenges as FANSY always has, head on, eyes focused and ready 24/7.

In closing, as much as I feel lucky to be part of our new management team, I am even more appreciative of all of our staff in Albany. My hat is off to all of you for a job well done. [Applause]

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Nice job, it's been a difficult year for every office. For the Report of the FASNY Attorney, I call on Edward M. Cooke.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY**

EDWARD M. COOKE: Good Morning. We had a meeting prior to this particular session, a meeting with the Credit Union. At that meeting a story was brought to our attention of a bank robbery, I think it was down in Nassau County, but I am not sure, we can't give the names of individuals involved for obvious reasons. The guy can running into the bank mask on, guns in both hands and demanded everybody to get down, get down on the floor, keeps your heads on the floor and don't raise your head or I'll kill you. All the people there in the place there immediately fell to the floor and he went up to the teller and the teller went and got the money for him and she did pick her head up and bang, he shot her right between the eyes. He said, "I'm warning you, anybody takes just one look, picks up their head and looks at me I'm going to kill them". So he ran around the [ ] and someone in the corner picks up their head and bang, shots. He gathered all his money together, started moving out of this particular bank and he said, "I am warning you again, has anybody seen me"? This guy lying on the floor and I think he was a member of one of the fire departments in Nassau County he picked up his hand and he said, "I think my wife took a look".

Officers and members of the great Firemen's Association of the State of New York, as I make my Annual Report to you, I first want to call your attention to something that just developed since my report and I thought that I would want to make you aware of. We had a couple of situations at the Home where members have been served with summons and complaints and they have become involved in litigation. The issue has come up to the degree that apparently there is something in the Home residents rights which indicate that individuals in the Home are entitled to advice and conciliation of the FASNY attorney in these particular matters. I discussed this with the Board, particularly the Chairman Montrose and questions involved were this in some cases might be a conflict of interest and furthermore it was John's thought that this members particular situation was developed when we had the old indigency requirement at the Home and I was as much in my capacity as attorney used to exam all the applications. Since that no longer happens, I suggested that the Trustees look at a modification of the Home residences rights to eliminate that particular matter except in certain circumstances that maybe beneficial to the Firemen's Association and I am in the process of developing some language which will be presented to the Board of Trustees at one of their next meetings. In particular matter at had however fortunately, this particular summons, I was leaving for the hotel here from my office and I found out the particular case in question, the plaintiff had agreed to discontinue that without seeking any judgment against the individual in the Home.

During the year, I have suggested to the Board of Directors that they have corporate governance and finance review of the corporation generally and it was during the year in December of 2008 the Association received that review from a premier law firm in New York that specializes in Not for Profit and Tax Exemption matters. This has been referred to as the Pelletier Review as with Anita Pelletier of Nixon Peabody, who did this. In her review she examined all the documents of the corporation and she looked into areas of potential problems, areas that did not comply with best practices for tax exempt organizations, as well as activities that could negatively impact FASNY's 501-C-3 exempt status. In that report she addressed issues that such as compensation of Directors and Officers, Independent Contractors-Employee issues, New York State Sales Tax, Corporate Best Practices at Board Meetings, Micro Management and Agendas issues, Committees, Form 990 Reporting, Member Benefits, Home activities, Lobbying and Political Activities, UBIT and Advertisement Income and Public Disclosure

Requirements. The Board of Directors has received and reviewed this report and my office has suggested implementation in regard to various areas thereto.

During the year, I continue to receive inquiries from members concerning matters of interest to the fire service in general. These inquiries are not only from members, but are also from public servants and volunteer firefighters in New York State. I have told you in the past that there are certain areas that I have to be a little careful about and one of those of course is the area is that we are unable to provide formal legal advice as that is the responsibility of the individual's attorney involved in the situation and there are many reasons for this, but we are able to provide information and general information concerning the fire service, concerning statutes, concerning cases and when it comes to application of those of course those individuals will have to seek their separate council.

A general and ongoing area for my office has been the Foreign Fire Insurance Premium Tax, generally referred to by you as Two Percent Funds. Those are set forth in Insurance Law Sections 9104 and 9105 and these sections are of course implemented by cases of the Supreme Court of New York and sometimes by the court of Appeals of New York and most often by Comptroller opinions.

I had previously reported to you a very important case that was going through the courts and that case is in Cortland County and that is known as John M. Rice, President of the Cortland Professional Firefighters Association, "I wonder what group that is?", vs. Richard Latham, Treasurer of the Cortland Fire Department. The litigated matter resulted in the court's decision and order on March 30, 2009. In that decision and order, Judge Kevin Dowd recited the prevalent law concerning division of Two Percent Funds, as it pertained to fire departments comprised of both paid and non-paid firefighters. He cited the Court of Appeals decision, *Renn v. Kimbark*, which held that all firemen in the locality were entitled to share ratably in the funds and that the tax proceeds should be allocated between paid and volunteer firefighters strictly on a pro rata basis, from membership rosters. The judge also incorporated an opinion of the Comptroller that pro rata distribution to fire companies based on their "active members" has become the standard. In this Cortland case, the critical part of the decision related to an application of that standard to determine those persons who qualify as "active members". Judge Dowd noted that the Constitution of the Cortland Fire Department determined requirements for "active members" and that the requirements included firefighters completion of applicable training as mandated by State law, Federal law, regulations or department policy. References were made by the Court to OSHA, PESH and requirements of physical examination. The Court found that "the only members who are considered active are those firefighters who have completed all legally required OSHA, PESH and Cortland Fire Department training and complete any required medical certification/physical". This Judge took a very interesting approach to this problem.

Another litigated matter that I reported to the Board on during the year was the matter that I have reported to you before which were ongoing litigation concerning our tax status at 107 Washington Avenue. If you recall we had started a certiorari proceeding two years ago and then continued it last year by a new proceeding seeking to reduce the assessment on the property at 107 Washington Avenue. It previously had been assessed for \$2,300,000 and we were asking that it be reduced from that figure. We were also requesting that we were not using a portion of building for tenancies and that we were using it for our own purposes, that was caused by movement from our downstairs area by Chamber of Commerce and we were requesting a 50% exemption on the building based upon that addition use by FASNY. After considerable time during the year, we had met had a meeting of the minds and established a particular Stipulation of Settlement with the City of Albany and that Stipulation of Settlement was incorporated into decree of the court and in my report to you at the time that I did it, that was still in the process on the Judge's desk as I left, I also got a copy of that particular order and where the Judge finally decreed that the assessment on our property at 107 Washington Avenue was reduced to \$1,800,000 and further that we were entitled to a 50% exemption because of our particular use of the property. This saves a considerable amount of money, I can't recall an exact number but it might be fourteen or eighteen thousand dollars in taxes a year. I think it was a very good result, furthermore it is result that will continue for three years at least the assessment value will continue for three years, the value on the particular exemption the 50% exemption has to be reported, we have to report that every year, I think is under Section 420 of the Real Property Tax Law.

The other issues in my report are certainly of significance, I because of the time issue here, I think we have to just generally go through them to indicate that I worked on various contracts for the Association during the year, they are all fully set forth in the report that I have given to the Secretary and is in your packet.

I do call your attention to we have an agreement with the City of Hudson relating to a license to use an area of 30 feet wide while they are constructing the school and that has been completed during the year and that will continue until March of 2010.

We completed that Liberty Mutual Agreement that was referred to previously; when that check was present for that good some of money. I want to clarify though a particular agreement; there is a similar agreement that we have with CNY Financial Group. Those are royalty agreements. FASNY is not a partnership agreement between FASNY and Liberty Mutual. FASNY is use of our customer list and our logo to Liberty Mutual and CNY Financial in return for which they pay us a royalty for that. The actual insurance itself is handled solely by the Liberty Mutual, we have nothing to do with that, that is their business and you do business directly with them. Similarly with CNY Financial, you do business directly with them, our only relationship is we get paid a fee according to that contract based upon various factors in that contract and we don't participate in anyway in that particular insurance program, other than to receive that fee.

I do want to call your attention also; this is our book of fire laws. In the report that I had there was an error, because I spelled the word maroon instead of blue. Actually, I made a mistake and put in there the maroon covered was the most current one, it is the blue book that is the most current. If you don't have this book, I suggest that you make arrangements, you can order this online. We want to keep this book in effect, we as you may recall, we stopped publishing it ourselves and now Lexis Nexis does it for us. It is a good book and I get lawyers all the time that call and want to get a copy of this. I get people throughout the fire service in New York that call and want to get a copy of it and if we are going to keep it a good book for our service, be sure that you or your particular group subscribes to that on a regular basis.

I want to defer to the reset of the particular report due to the time situation to your reading of that. I would say through my, I think this is my 23<sup>rd</sup> year as your attorney for the Association, it has been a real pleasure to serve here with all of you and I couldn't have done this without the assistance of all of the Officers, Directors, Staff and Members of our Association and it appears that the legal affairs of the Association are in order and through much hard work of corporate representatives, this corporation will be able to withstand the economic recession and fiscal difficulties of the time, to remain the premier Association for the maintenance and support of the volunteer fire service in New York and the public that service protects. Thank you. [Applause]

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Thank you, Ed. Now for the Report of the President of the Firemen's Home Board of Trustee, John B. Montrose.

## **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

JOHN MONTROSE: Good Morning, FASNY Officers, members. Tom, I would like to thank you for your kind remarks about the Trustees and myself. I am giving this report with sadness on behalf of James Wright and myself.

Some of the highlights that the Home members mention and constantly talk about are the August Cosmo Strigaro Memorial Softball Tournament which hosts an average of 38 teams of Volunteer Firefighters from all over the State and the September boat ride in Lake George sponsored by the Lake George Fire Department and their escort out of town led by Lake George fire trucks with sirens blaring and red lights flashing. There are also other events through out the year that take place sponsored by different organizations that are too numerous to mention. To all of you, thank you very much for your support. In September, we welcomed our newest department head, Susan Gordon who fills the position of Human Resource Director, acting for both the Firemen's Home and the FASNY office. In October, we lost our first Lady Auxiliary resident, Ella Ernst, Charter President of LAFASNY at 102 years old. This year she celebrated 60 years as an auxiliary member.

A Chapel Committee was appointed to discuss the proposed stained glass windows and care and upkeep of the Chapel. A heartfelt thank you was sent to Mary Horwood, widow of deceased Trustee Richard Horwood for her generous donation of a Hammond elegant model organ and Leslie tone cabinet, a family heirloom and we sure appreciate it.

We had 6 testimonial dinners, one for past President of the Board of Trustees Mike Ryan, Joe, Esposito, Walt Lang, FASNY President Mike Wutz, Director Bill Reilly and LAFASNY President Kathy Welton. We also welcomed to the Board of Trustees David Blair of Syracuse, Bill Murray of West Islip and David Wolf from Danville.

In November, the dietary staff prepared a delicious Thanksgiving dinner from scratch for the members, their families and guests. In December, our Residents Council Election took place and there was a change of officers. Tim E. Hall of Levittown is the new President, William J. Kelly, Jr., is Vice President and Sandy Poppoon is Secretary. It seems with Hall, Kelly Jr., and FASNY President Tom from Levittown has a secure hold on the top offices. We also got hit with an ice storm in December, which put our grounds crew to a test with clean up duties and they were sure up to it. The new cemetery fence received a lot of damages from falling trees and will be replaced after the trees are removed. The Board undertook a new project to raise money for resident activities by selling boxed Christmas cards with a picture of the New Home decorated for Christmas. There are 20 cards in a box and there are still some left that will be sold this year. For the Holiday's, our Tree Lighting Ceremony took place in December which was a big hit with the members. The party and goodies were supplied by our kitchen staff was enjoyed by all.

In December 2008, due to the country's financial situation which affected FASNY's Portfolio, the Trustee's Budget Committee along with the Audit Committee met with FASNY's Budget and Finance Committee. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss proposed cuts to the Firemen's Home and FASNY's Annual Budget. This was the beginning of several meetings resulting in drastic cuts to the Home budget. At the January Board of Trustees meeting, a discussion was held on the proposal from the FASNY Board of Directors to reduce the 2009 Home budget by an additional 2.5 million dollars. The Board of Trustees at this point had already made reductions of 1.5 million dollars to the current budget. Reducing the current budget by an additional 2.5 million dollars would be a total reduction of 35% in our overall operating budget. The Board of Trustees feels this will have a serious impact on the care and treatment of the members.

Spring arrived in sadness as we lost Trustee President James Wright on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. His tributes were many and we realized a great loss with his passing. In his memory over \$5,000.00 has been donated to the Chapel Fund. Also with sadness we lost past Trustee Richard Hough on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 and Past Trustee and Secretary of the Museum Board, Donald H. Fox on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Several monetary donations were received for Donald toward the Chapel and Museum funds.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Residents Council conducted their Memorial Service at the Home which was well attended by families and friends who lost loved ones. Members of the Board of Trustees and Board of Directors attended and Officers of both Boards spoke. Summer has arrived and the members are busy attending functions on and off the Home grounds and are looking forward to the upcoming outings and activities on the grounds. Home Administrator, Craig Wittman has left our facility along with Director of Nursing, Ruth Shear. We thank them for their dedicated service. Thank you to the Jarchin Group, Sharon and Andy for a job well done over the years of your coverage of the old and new Home. Thank you to FASNY Secretary, Michael Whelan for keeping me informed during this sudden and sad transition. I would like to thank John Farrell for doing a mighty fine job in taking over the writing of our articles for the Volunteer Firefighter. I would also like to thank Steve Klein and the Budget Committee and the rest of the Board of Trustees for making this difficult transition go as smoothly as it has. I am looking forward to a productive and successful 2010 and a great relationship working with FASNY. Thank you. [Applause]

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Thank you, John. It has been a very busy year and we appreciate everything that was done to help create a budget that we could live with, both the Directors and the Trustees as long as the care and the Home continues unabated. For the Report of the Secretary of the Firemen's Home Board of Trustees, Steven E. Klein.

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE FIREMEN'S HOME BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

STEVEN KLEIN: Good Morning. Reverend Clergy, guests of FASNY, President Cuff, Vice Presidents Jacobowitz and Kelly and FASNY Members. I am pleased to make the following report. The complete Annual Report of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees is included in the book of Committee Reports available at the Registration Desk. I would like to report on a number of events that occurred this year, an extremely challenging year for the board of Trustees.

The most difficult event by far this year was the untimely passing of Board President, Jim Wright. Jim worked tirelessly on behalf of the Home and the residents there. During his tenure, he oversaw the new Home construction, the move into the new building and was co-chairman of the Dedication Ceremony. This year Jim was forced to face other issues of a more difficult nature. Due to the fiscal crisis, Jim found it necessary to dispel many rumors and to assure Home residents and employees that the Home was not closing. Jim made it a point to be at the Home at the change of shifts to speak directly to every employee to tell them their jobs were secure. There was nothing he would not do for any resident or employee at the Home. He is dearly missed by everyone.

Secondly, the worldwide financial crisis did not skip FASNY and the Home. The Board of Trustees assisted by the heads of various departments at the Home reviewed all spending and implemented a hiring freeze in an effort to reduce expenses. This resulted in a one and one half million dollar reduction in the 2008-2009 budget. When coupled with the recoveries to the budget, the Two Percent monies and donations from you and your friends, the expense to FASNY to operate the Home is expected to be around one million dollars this year. Further, the Board of Trustees Budget and Finance Committee and the Board of Directors Budget and Finance Committee worked together with Chief Administrative Office Dave Quinn and the department heads at the Home to produce a budget for 2009-2010 that is the lowest since 2007-2008. I urge you to vote yes on the resolution to adopt this budget.

Finally, Administrator Craig Wittman left the Firemen's Home in July after many years. Craig was an excellent administrator and was well liked by the Home members and their families. His efforts on behalf of the residents mad the Home a true "Home away from Home". The Board of Trustees thanks Craig for his many years of service. A search for a new administrator has begun.

In closing, the Board of Trustees thanks all of you for your continued support and invites you to visit the Firemen's Home when you are in the area. [Applause]

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: For the purpose of the Report of the President of the FASNY Foundation, I call upon Steve Klein.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FASNY FOUNDATION**

STEVEN KLEIN: This is the Report of the President of the FASNY Foundation. The past year has been an extremely busy one for the Foundation. The collapse of the world's financial markets resulted in a serious loss of revenue generated by the Foundation's Portfolio. This resulted in the inability of the Foundation to support the ongoing projects of FASNY and its Committees. Prior to October 2008, the Foundation Board of Directors held a number of meeting with our financial managers seeking ways to reduce the Foundation's exposure to the volatility in the stock market in order to preserve the bulk of the Foundation's assets. The Board of Directors felt that very comfortable following the advice of these managers after more than twenty years of a successful partnership.

Following the October collapse, however that confidence level was severely tested. The Foundation Board had been investigating other avenues of investing prior to October, but these alternatives took on added meaning at that time. A number of interviews were conducted and in March 2009 the Foundation retained Alesco Advisors LLC as our new financial mangers. Jim Gould, President of Alesco Advisors and his staff took immediate steps to realign the portfolio and I am pleased to report that at a meeting of the Foundation Board on July 30<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Gould was able to report that the Foundation Portfolio has recovered about 25% of the value lost in late 2008, early 2009. While this does not solve all of the financial issues of FASNY, it does provide a cushion for the ongoing current projects.

In closing, the last year has been a learning experience for all of us in FASNY. The events of the past year have been an awakening for a lot of us. Steps taken by the Foundation Board, FASNY's Board of Directors and the Trustees of the Firemen's Home have resulted in a more efficient, better supervised Association able to do more with less, with an ability to continue to serve the Volunteer Fire Service in the State of New York. That is my written report and I would just like to make one other statement here. A lot of people would probably going to say that the last year of FASNY was a pretty bad year, pretty rough year and I am going to disagree with you and I am going to tell you that the people that serve on you different Corporation Boards, the office staff, the employees and the managers at the Home, the Trustee, the Directors, maybe you think that they did a poor job, but I am going to tell you that you have no idea how close we were to financial collapse and in my opinion these people that serve on these Boards today saved the Firemen's Association of the State of New York and I thank them for that. [Applause]

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Nice job and we thank you, Steve for everything you that you have helped us do, accomplish to make things work. Also, for the Financial Report from the Treasurer of the Foundation, Thomas L. Krawczyk.

THOMAS KRAWCZYK: I have to read this Report as part of the Convention Minutes, Form 519; it's and auditors report from our auditors Cusack, Incorporated. It's the same report that Mike Whelan read off for the FASNY part of the minutes.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
**Firemen's Association of the State of New York, Foundation, Inc.**

THE 12-MONTH FISCAL PERIOD ENDING

June 30, 2009

UNDER

SECTION 519 of the NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION LAW

To: The Members of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, Foundation, Inc.

The Board of Directors respectfully submits for your information the following report related to **The Firemen's Association of New York Foundation, Inc.** for the twelve moth fiscal period ending June 30, 2009;

1. The assets and liabilities, including trust funds (listed separately), of the corporation as of the end of said fiscal period are as follows:

Assets Total:	\$170,078,743
Liabilities Total:	\$18,032,515
Trust Funds Total:	\$ N/A

2. The principal changes in the assets and liabilities, including trust funds of the corporation during said fiscal period were as follows: The Foundation's investment portfolio decreases accounted for the principal changes in assets. Net investment losses of approximately \$37,000,000 are included in the expense totals resulting in an overall decrease in net assets for the period.

3. The revenue (or receipts) of the corporation, both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes during said fiscal period were as follows:

Unrestricted Revenues (or receipts) Total	\$ 2,808,602
Revenues (or receipts) Restricted to Particular Purpose Total	\$ N/A

4. The expenses (or disbursements) of the corporation for both general and restricted purposes, during said fiscal period were as follows:

Expenses (or Disbursements) for General Purposes Total	\$43,370,486
Expenses (or Disbursements) for Restricted Purposes Total	\$ N/A

5. Concerning the membership of the corporation:
- (a) The number of members as of June 30, 2009 is 1.
  - (b) The number of members **increased** by 0 during the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.
  - (c) The names and places of residence of the current member may be found in the books of the corporation which are kept at the **Firemen's Association of the State of New York, Foundation, Inc.**, office at 107 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12210.

This report has been prepared pursuant to Section 519 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law. Dated: August 19, 2009, Niagara Falls, New York. Signed by the President, Steven Klein and myself as Treasurer.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: You did a better job than Michael. Thank you. For the purpose of a Report of the FASNY Legislative Committee, I would like to call upon Chairman, Peter Casey and Legislative Representative, Kirby Hannan.

### **REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

PETER CASEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good Morning, Brother and Sister Firefighters, guests, notoriety on the dais, Officers of the Corporations, Reverend Clergy. We will bring you a brief overview of the reports that is in the collection of reports that is available to you that you have heard about before, if you want to read the details and we are also available by phone the Committee, myself and Kirby Hannan anytime you want to call us. We have heard a number of times in various reports this morning the difficulty we have had with the Legislature in Albany this year. I don't think that I have to go into any depth to describe some of the pitfalls that we ran into and some of the difficulty that we tried so hard to overcome. I can tell you this that the Committee worked very hard. The Board of Directors was constantly working on this problem and the headway was very, very slow through no fault of anybody in FASNY, I can promise you that. The Consolidation Issue overwhelmed the Senate and the Assembly in the early weeks of the session and mandated by the Majority Leader and by the Governor and as that began to clear up a little the Senate began to have a revolt and another revolt and I guess they are still revolting. It was difficult for a longtime to tell how was in leadership and when you don't know who the leaders are and you are not sure who to put the pressure on, so we kept waiting it out and consequently we have not had a lot of victories this year. We have had three issues passed by the Assembly, seven recorded out by the Senate, but it is later in this session. Which it is so important that we could score on some of those. The best thing that we can do is re-gather our strength and become more determined than ever and look to the next session to really go after what we need for our volunteer firefighters in this State. We have several agendas coming up and we will be sending you your suggestions and I ask you to take a hard, hard look at what you are sending in, try to reduce the volume that we have to carry. We had twenty-two items on the agenda last year that makes it difficult to keep the planning going and to keep the pressure on. If you could prioritize your thoughts that would help us and if you could cut down some of the issues that you want to pursue now and hold them for the future that would be a great help. The prioritization I think will help all of us and be sure your reps get to those meetings in October, the Friday night meeting and the Saturday night meeting so that we can hash those things out and get them done in an orderly manner and with a thoroughly informed Committee decision. The Outreach Program is alive and well and will be continuing and as far as we are informed at this point, I encourage you to schedule your time so that the Outreach Program comes to you so that you don't have to come to Albany to get the latest and the updates. The Computerized Leap Program where you can contact your Senator or Assemblyman certainly is an advantage it gives us the advantage of being able to contact anyone of them with a prewritten script almost if you want to or you can do your own letter. When you click in and register on that link your email will automatically bring up for you who your representatives are in Albany. I encourage you to keep working on it, talk to your local representatives and now I am going to turn it over to Kirby Hannan for some of the details on some of the other legislation.

KIRBY T. HANNAN: Not many details, you have been very patient, you have been a wonderful group in terms of the volume that you have had to absorb today, so here is my commitment to you for the coming year. First of all, this session is not over yet and David Jacobowitz just reminded me that this

September the Legislature is coming back and one of the key issues is going to funding and there is going to be a two billion dollar revenue short fall for the State and what does that really mean? It means that the two billion that they are looking at translates to about a 15% cut in what would amount to every line item in every State agency; in addition there will be a personal income tax increase. What am I really trying to say here, I am trying to say that the training funds are going to get cut even more and so my commitment to you would be that I will be working full time with all of the Emergency Respond Crews to petition the Governor's Office. I hope you are going to be working full time as well through emails, through the link program, through your Legislative Committee to petition the Governor's Office to keeps those funds held [ ], because we don't have the training funds necessary to get out our volunteers into the pipeline. So, that basically is my message. Our Legislative Program was all but derailed, you also know about our Report which Peter talked about it is a detailed explanation of essentially the problems that occurs in the Senate and would also say the Consolidation issue which cost us probably six bills dealing with volunteer fire benefit law issues, which the Governor's Committee and both Committees got paralyzed by literally by this Consolidation issue. So, that is where I am at the moment. Next year we are looking at amending the Consolidation Bill, so as to exempt fire districts and or make that Legislation workable from our perspective. We are looking to pay particular attention as Peter mentioned to the Score Card Issue. The non-money Score Card Issues, there are at least nine of them that should passed this year and which I commit to you will pass next year and then finally a greater application of electronic media than the Leap Program, we are going to corresponding with you through email and we hope you will in turn be petitioning your government, because that is what we need, I think to get their attention these days. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Thank you, Kirby. Right now I would like from the general membership a motion to adopt the Annual Reports of the FASNY Committees. These copies of the Annual Reports of the FASNY Committees are available at the Registration area. Please stand and state your name.

JAMES PACANOWKI: James Pacanowski, Westfield FD, moves to adopt.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Ok, a second?

CHAN RIVERA: I second it.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Who? Chan Rivera, seconds it. All in favor?

ASSEMBLY: Aye.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Opposed if any? [None] Thank you. We have one more item and that is for the Invitation to the 2010 Convention in the great County of Suffolk County by Chairman, Robert McConville.

ROBERT MCCONVILLE: Thank you, David. The officers and members of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association are honored to be the host of the 138<sup>th</sup> Annual FASNY Convention. We have been and are continuing to do everything in our province to provide a Class Triple AAA Convention for the officers, members, delegates and friends of FASNY. We in Suffolk are striving to be the best host FASNY has had. We are confident you will have a successful Convention and a great time in Suffolk County. We are working hand in hand with the FASNY Convention Committee and we would like to thank Chairman Oehmler for all his help. Myself, as General Chairman, Richard Vella and Bobby Knight as Co-Chairman and Eugene Perry as President of the Association have worked diligently with our outstanding Convention Committee to insure that all requirements of the Convention have been met and that we are trying to make your stay in Suffolk County enjoyable and noteworthy. The host hotel for the Convention will be the Hyatt Regency Windwatch in Hauppauge, Long Island, August 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Those of you who attended the 1999 Convention with us will remember the Hyatt and what a superb venue it provided for all our needs during Convention week. The rooms are modern, large and offer great views of Long Island as one can see Fire Island on the south and the Connecticut Shore line from the north. The Hyatt provides an enormous lobby from which one can visit the front desk, restaurants,

hospitality rooms and the outdoor pool and patio area. The Hyatt offers both an indoor and outdoor pool that are brand new and state of the art. The Convention Room seats over 1,000 and will serve the needs of FASNY as well as any facility we have used. FASNY members coming to the Hyatt for the first time will certainly be impressed, you will love this hotel, I guarantee it. Around the Hyatt you will find restaurants, diners, fast food and my favorite seven-eleven. Numerous sport type restaurants including Dave and Busters, Applebee's and TGIF's are minutes away. Attractions include numerous modern shopping malls, the Long Island Ducks Baseball Team that play in a brand new stadium is near by. Ferries to Fire Island are a mere twenty minute drive from the Hyatt and for those needing to fly; McArthur Airport is less than fifteen minutes away. Sight seeing includes some of the best Wine Country in New York State on both the North and South Forks of Long Island. Celebrity sightseeing in East Hampton and Horse Shows and Polo in South Hampton. If you have the time, one can travel to the very end or the very beginning of Long Island, depending on which way you look at it and visit the Lighthouse in Montauk. We have put many sightseeing attractions in our Convention Packet; I urge every one to visit our Registration Desk out in the hallway.

In closing, we are ready to provide a great Convention and we look forward to seeing all of you in Suffolk County next August for the 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of FASNY. Thank you. [Applause]

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Thank you, Bob. We are now getting ready now for the presentation of the Firefighter of the Year. I promised Roger it was going to be done by 10:30. I do have a couple of announcements, please and we welcome everyone that is now entering into the room as we are getting ready. A couple of announcements, first of all. The FASNY ICC Chapter Meeting of the New York Codes Collation will be held in the Devaroe Room beginning immediately after this session recessed or at 11:30 am, signed by Joe Finnegan. You can get directions out front there and they can tell you where the Devaroe Room is. And as we are getting ready, Roger do you need to come up? Five minutes, ok. Also, as you look to your left you see a quilt that was place there this morning and I guess, I will just tell you this for time purposes. After working nine months at Ground Zero, Mike Bellone, Director of the TRAC Team which TRAC stands for Trauma Response Assistance for Children, felt that there was a need to some how memorialize the fallen firefighters. While Mike worked on the World Trade Center recovery site, he was given patches from various Fire, Police and EMS Departments. They came to the site to assist in the recovery efforts. In 2002, Mike was in Reno, Nevada giving a TRAC presentation when he met Nancy [ ] and Debbie [ ]. Nancy and Debbie own and operate Comfort Quilts, after chatting a bit with Mike they volunteered their quilt making skills and the quilt project was born. Taking a little longer than eight months to craft and the quilt was completed in 2003. The patches that comprise 343 represent the units that assisted in the recovery efforts. The number 343 of course represents the 343 firefighters that lost their lives on 9/11/2001. The boarder patches are from various other Police, EMS and Fire Departments throughout this world and have seen the quilt and donated their patch. The quilt has been in approximately twenty states and has received signatures from residents in communities that have hosted the quilt. After this year's 9/11, the quilt will be donated to the Smithsonian Institute and may the spirit that I felt putting this quilt together fell the hearts of those that see it and it is by Nancy [ ], July 23, 2003. If you would like, if you have your patches available, they will take them at the desk outside there to the left, if you would like to donate your patch and they will see that it gets added, so if you have a patch. So, how are we doing? Are there any other announcements we would like to make before we close.

MICHAEL BELLONE: If you want to sign the quilt, I will have someone here with a pen and you can sign the boarder. There are over 10,000 signatures on there already, the President, the Vice President; about eight Governors have already signed it. We want to get as many firefighters signatures as we can as well. So, if you want when you are done, feel free to come on up and sign the quilt. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: I have already had the honor and you get a strange feeling when you do sign that and please do take the time to sign it. This afternoon we have additional Forums, we had three great speakers yesterday and we have learned that maybe we do our business in the morning and our education in the afternoon and we had great speaks and we continue to have great speakers this afternoon. This afternoon at 12:30 we will have Chief Al Brunacini presenting the "Functional Boss Behaviors", in Cascades One. At 2:15 "Fire Service Round Table", featuring all of our Speakers in Cascades Two and at 4 pm the 2% Tax Forum right here in this room. So, there will be of

room for the 2% Forum to take place. We ask you to join us, to attend the programs and make sure that you get scanned so that you get your certificates of attendance so that you can take them back to your departments. I think Mary Ellen is working on them trying to get printed off this morning the ones that attended yesterday. I also want to thank the Youth in the Fire Service Committee they did a wonderful job yesterday, will the Committee please stand up. [Applause] If you get the chance along with the Presidents picture, there is an article, this happens to be the Niagara Gazette. It says "Fanning the Flames". As you know the future of our fire service is the youth, you know we all like to hang on, but it is the youth that is going to come and take our place someday and I hope soon. They really did a great job and I want to thank them all and we really appreciate what they have done. So, it brings good things to the fire service. You are ready? How did I do? Very good. I would like to at this time turn the podium and microphone over to the Chairman of the Firefighter of the Year, Roger Putnam.

### **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AND EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR CEREMONIES**

ROGER PUTNAM: Good morning. President Cuff, Vice Presidents Jacobowitz and Kelly, FASNY Officers, LAFASNY Officers, Reverend Clergy, delegates, members and distinguished guests. It is indeed an honor and privilege to stand here before you this morning to present this most prestigious award, that of the FASNY's 2009 Firefighter of the Year. As in the past, this Award Ceremony has been and will continue to be a combined Committee Award presentation that of EMS Provider of the Year and Firefighter of the Year. At this time it gives me great pleasure to turn this part of our program over to Marc Kasprzak, Chairman of the EMS Committee for his yearly EMS Committee report.

MARC KASPRZAK: Thank you, Roger. Good morning everyone. President Cuff, Vice Presidents Jacobowitz and Kelly, officers, Reverend Clergy, delegates, members and guests. In March of this year the EMS Committee consisting of the following members, myself Marc Kasprzak as Chairman from Niagara County, my Vice Chairman, Arthur McRobbie from Saint Lawrence County, Brian Martin from Ulster County, Larry Nagel from Cattaraugus County, Jerry Owenburg from Suffolk County, Diana Pfersick from Monroe County, Michael Quinn from Dutchess County, David Simmons from Delaware County and our Liaison, Director Michael Reid from Nassau County. We met and reviewed the applications received for the 2009 EMS Provider of the Year Award. After an extensive review of all the applications submitted, the Committee was unfortunately unable to select a winner for 2009 that met the established criteria for the EMS Provider of the Year Award. Having not been selected to receive the award to in now way lessens the acts that were accomplished and the effects that the out comes of each incident had on the effected victims, their families and the EMS Responders involved in each application submitted. All applicants will receive Certificates of Merit for their actions in the weeks to follow the Convention. The EMS Committee would like to encourage all companies and departments across the state to submit EMS Provider of the Year applications in coming years for feats of heroism in the volunteer emergency services that occur throughout the year. On behalf of the EMS Committee, thank you and I would like to turn this program back to Roger Putnam for the remainder of the ceremony. Thank you.

ROGER PUTNAM: Thank you, Marc. I would now ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please assemble the FASNY Officers, Distinguished Guests and Committee members of both the Firefighter of the Year and EMS Committee at the rear of the ballroom along with the 2009 Firefighter of the Year, the 54<sup>th</sup> Firefighter of the Year Award presentation by FASNY. You can follow along in your programs as I read off the list of nineteen applications received this year by the Firefighter of the Year Committee. Of the nineteen applications submitted, eleven where individual actions and eight where team actions.

#### Individual Applications:

Ex. Captain Paul Sokol	New Hyde Park FD
FF John P. DeLuca	Patchogue FD
FF Michael Sowinski	New Hyde Park FD
FF Paul Bugge	Westhampton FD
FF Paul Hoyle	Westhampton FD
Ex. Chief Joseph Corr	Southampton FD

Captain James DiGiovanna  
Lt. Jason Meyer  
FF/EMT Carl W. Carlson  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Glenn V. Fordsman

Great River FD  
Plattekill FD  
Glenwood H & L Co.  
Alert Engine and Hose Co.  
(Posthumous Award) for Dedicated Service for 2008

Team Applications:

1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief Richard Resto

Bethpage FD

Lt. Joseph Barrow

South Farmingdale FD

2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief James Ruzicka  
3<sup>rd</sup> Asst. Chief Edward Madden  
Ex. Chief Robert Wells

Island Park FD

Lt. Kevin Haller  
FF Elliot Ser

Wantagh FD

3<sup>rd</sup> Asst. Chief John Bancroft  
Captain Darryl Schunk  
Lt. Halsey Stevens

Westhampton Beach FD

Captain Paul Jahns  
FF Richard Jahns  
FF Robert Dunn

Livingston Fire Co.

FF Jim Cascucci  
FF Michael Douglas

Milan Fire Co.

FF Eugene Botts

Elizaville Fire Co.

Asst. Chief Erik Smith  
Lt. Matt Troy  
FF Curt Krieger  
FF Jerry Galu

Highland Falls FD

Deputy Chief John Norris  
Lt. Donald Bowers  
FF Jamie Ballou  
FF Charles Cappon  
FF Scott Flynn  
FF Mark Smith

Barnard FD

FF John Amo  
FF David Falkner

North Greece FD

Garden City Park FD

Unit Citation

Each of these runners up nominees will be receiving a Certificate of Merit Award from FASNY in the upcoming weeks following the Convention from the Firefighter of the Year Committee. This morning, this year's winner will be escorted in by the Firefighter of the Year Committee, EMS Committee along with President Thomas J. Cuff, Jr., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Joe Kelly, along with the Color Guard from the North Syracuse Fire Department and the winner's family members. Would you please stand as the Norwood Fire Department Band proudly plays the group into the hall. Ladies and Gentlemen, it now gives me a great deal of pleasure to introduce to you the 2009 Firemen's Association of the State of New York

"Firefighter of the Year" Assistant Chief Timothy R. Ellis of the North Syracuse Fire Department. You may now be seated. Please post the colors.

[Colors Posted]

I would like to thank the Norwood Fire Department Band, under the direction of Bob Haggett for that wonderful musical rendition as the group entered the hall. This year the Firefighter of the Year Committee consisted of the following members, My Vice Chairman, Mr. P. Michael Nielsen from Jamestown in Chautauqua County, Mr. Peter Holmes from Westmoreland in Oneida County, Mr. Donald Farrell from Ossining in Westchester County, Mr. George Motchkavitz from Great Neck in Nassau County and Mr. Howard Ayers from Springwater in Livingston County. Mr. Robert McConville from Selden in Suffolk County is our Liaison from the Board of Directors. I am Roger Putnam from East Northport in Suffolk County and very proud to serve as Chairman of this great Committee. For your convenience my Year End Report is also printed in this year's Convention Committee Report Program on page 37. In early March 2009, the Firefighter of the Year Committee members were all given an organized portfolio which contained copies of all 19 FASNY Firefighter of the Year applications submitted for 2009. This year the Firefighter of the Year Committee didn't have the opportunity to meet as a group to discuss the applications, but after several telephone discussions, individual scoring and re-readings of the applications, a unanimous decision was finally made. Ladies and Gentlemen, I again give you the 2009 Firemen's Association of the State of New York "Firefighter of the Year" Assistant Chief Timothy R. Ellis of the North Syracuse Fire Department. [Applause] As Tim stands next to me I will read the events of July 9<sup>th</sup> 2008 as submitted by Chief Mark Hogan of the North Syracuse Fire Department.

On July 9, 2008 at 11:25 pm the North Syracuse Fire Department was dispatched to a reported apartment building fire at 417 South Main Street in the Village of North Syracuse. Also dispatched on the alarm assignment was Mattydale Fire Department Rescue-1 as the Rapid Intervention Team. Upon arrival on the North Syracuse Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis at 11:27 pm, he reported a multi-story apartment building with smoke and fire showing and signaled a working fire. Additional mutual aid fire departments were requested. Assistant Chief Ellis was met by Police and bystanders who advised him that the other neighbors were all out except one person who was trapped on the top floor at the west side window. Assistant Chief Ellis finished donning his turnout gear and air pack and continued a size-up of the building. He confirmed that a victim was at a small open window and was attempting to stick his head outside it to breathe. Heavy smoke was pushing from around the victim through the window of the apartment on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. This apartment was situated directly above the 1<sup>st</sup> floor apartment which was on fire. The fire was now pushing out the rear windows of this apartment and was also beginning to extend into the second floor apartment.

Assistant Chief Ellis reported these observations to the other responding Chiefs and asked for a ladder to be raised to attempt a victim rescue from the outside. At this point, no other units had arrived on scene and given the advancing fire and confirmed victim at the window, Assistant Chief Ellis entered the building without the protection of a hoseline to locate and rescue the victim. Ellis encountered intense heat, smoke and fire at the door to the fire apartment, closing the door to slow the fire progression into the hallway. Chief Ellis continued to make his way up to the second floor, entering the victim's apartment to begin his search. While in this apartment, Ellis was met with extreme heat, dense smoke with almost no visibility, but was able to see the orange glow of the fire extending up into this apartment from below.

While Ellis was conducting his search of the apartment, other chiefs and fire apparatus were now on scene. During the search, conditions within continued to rapidly deteriorate and Assistant Chief Ellis became disoriented during the search. With the rapidly changing conditions and fire extending into the victim's apartment, his disorientation and still having not located the victim, he radioed for a "Mayday". Command confirmed this message and relayed the "Mayday" to crews on scene, who were entering the building with multiple hose lines. Additional alarm assignments were sent to the scene to help in addressing the victim and now the "Mayday"

Assistant Chief Ellis regained his orientation and direction, continuing his search for the victim. He located the victim in a bedroom, finding him unconscious and wedged between the bed and the wall. He assessed the room and found that the window was unusually small and high off the floor and the victim was rather large. A window rescue at this point would prove to be a lengthy evolution and with fire extending into the victim's apartment, he made the decision to remove the victim via the interior stairway.

As Ellis dislodged the victim and made his way back through the apartment dragging the unconscious victim, he was met by the crew from North Syracuse Engine 8, who gave Ellis assistance in removing the victim from the apartment. Command was advised that the victim as well as Assistant Chief Ellis were all located and now coming out of the building. The time was now about 11:37 pm.

At this time, fire containment efforts were being undertaken in apartment #1 and apartment #3. The victim was removed via the interior stairway and taken outside where he was turned over to ambulance personnel for resuscitation efforts. Within the hour of the victim being removed from the fire, he was breathing on his own and undergoing treatment at University Hospital. The victim, Michael Argy, 49 years old, was subsequently released from the hospital about one day later.

As a result of the unselfish act of courage and bravery, at extreme personal risk, exhibited by Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis, he was able to take swift actions to remove a trapped fire victim and save his life. His failure or delay in taking these actions would have led to a much more tragic outcome. Assistant Chief Ellis has set a fine example of valor, courage and bravery, bringing credit upon himself and the members of the North Syracuse Fire Department. Therefore, I submit Assistant Chief Timothy R. Ellis as a nomination for the FASNY 2009 Firefighter of the Year. Sincerely, Mark Hogan, Chief of Department. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: I now call upon FASNY President Thomas Cuff to present the FASNY Medal of Valor to the 2009 Firefighter of the Year.

PRESIDENT THOMAS CUFF: Chief, it is a privilege and a pleasure to present this memento to you for the significant event and too congratulate you on your bravery and your courage and your firefighting instincts to do the right thing. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President David Jacobowitz to present the winners plaque.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: With every heroic action goes a plaque. Probably not the first one you have received and probably will not be your last. But, hopefully will be you're proudest. Tim, Congratulations. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: Sometimes more important is the monetary gift, Joe.

VICE PRESIDENT KELLY: Tim, on behalf of FASNY, I would like to present you with a small token of our appreciation and hope that it will help pay some of the costs. Maybe even buy another action hero for your son, there are about six action hero's he's playing with down there and I think he needs one more. Tim, congratulations. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: Representing Senator Schumer is Laura Monte.

LAURA MONTE: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. Senator Schumer regrets not being able to be here today. He has asked me to read the proclamation on his behalf and without going into repeating some of the details of the incidents of acts of bravery, I will skip a few of the lines, but the full the full proclamation will be hand delivered to him in Syracuse. Where as, on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year 2009 the Firemen's Association of the State of New York will gather on and celebrate the 2009 Firefighter of the Year Award recipient Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis of the North Syracuse Fire Department. Where as, the Firefighter of the Year Award is giving to the firefighters who have truly embodied the spirit of heroism and bravery and I will skip the Senators commence panel on his act of bravery, details of the actual saving of the life. Where as, be it know that Senator Charles E. Schumer, does hereby recognize and offer his sincere most congratulations to Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis and thank him for his service to the Syracuse community and to our State. Thank you very much. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: I received this, this morning. Dear Friends, I am delighted to send greeting to everyone who is gathered at the Crowne Plaza in Niagara Falls for the 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York. The citizens of the Empire State proudly recognize the outstanding sense of civil duties demonstrated by local volunteer firefighters who guard against the

ravages of fire and stand ready to lend a hand in all disasters, providing urgent relief and assistance to New Yorkers in need. For close to a century and a half FASNY has been an effect advocate for firefighters and the public they serve and protect. No greater honor can be bestowed upon an individual than to be recognized by family, friends and colleagues and I am pleased to join this fitting tribute to Timothy Ellis, Assistant Chief and member of the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department as he is presented with the 2009 FASNY Firefighter of the Year. Without a second hesitation and regard for his own safety and without the protection of a hoseline, Assistant Chief Ellis entered an active fire in a multi-story apartment building in rapidly deteriorating conditions. Conducting the daring rescue of an unconscious victim from the South Main Street home which was subsequently engulfed in flames during the accident of July 9, 2008, Assistant Chief Ellis risk everything to save a life, the selfless and fearless actions of this local hero are now a fine inspiration to his community and to all of us. On behalf of all New Yorkers I commend Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis of North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department for his distinguished service and leadership in upholding a noble firefighting and rescue tradition and for his substantial courage, confidence and confidence in the line of duty. Best Wishes for an outstanding Convention and much continued success. Sincerely, David Patterson. [Applause]

I now call upon Deputy Fire Coordinator Chet Fritz for a proclamation.

CHET FRITZ: Thank you. This presentation is from the office of County Executive Joanne Mahoney of Onondaga County. Where as, Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis has been a dedicated member of the North Syracuse Fire Department for over twenty years, four of those years as Assistant Chief. Where as, on July 9, 2008, the North Syracuse Fire Department was dispatched to a an apartment fire at 417 South Main Street in the Village of North Syracuse and where as, upon arriving at the same, Assistant Chief Ellis was met by police and by standers who informed him that a person was trapped on the top floor of the burning building and where as, with fire advancing into the second floor, Assistant Chief Ellis entered the building without the protection of a hoseline and attempted to locate and rescue the victims and where as, he entering the apartment he encountered intense heat, smoke, fire and near zero visibility causing him to become disoriented and radioed for a "Mayday" and where as, Assistant Chief Ellis was able to gain his orientation and continued his search and ultimately finding and dragging the unconscious victim to the stairwell, where he was met by the crew from the North Syracuse Fire Department Engine 8, they were able to remove this victim, where as due to the valor, courage and bravery of Assistant Chief Ellis he has brought a credit upon himself, members of the North Syracuse Fire Department and all firemen unselfishly perform their jobs everyday and where as, today we honor Assistant Chief Ellis as FASNY'S Firefighter of the Year, a hero who's unselfish act of courage, bravery and extreme personal risk to save the life of Michael Argy. Now therefore, I Joanne Mahoney, County Executive, the County of Onondaga, due hereby define the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 2009 as Assistant Chief Timothy Ellis Day and witness thereof signed Joanne M. Mahoney, County Executive. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: I have two more proclamations here from the Legislative Chambers of Onondaga County and I won't read them. [Applause] I hope to have a Legislative Resolution from Senator DeFrancisco who will be personally presenting this resolution to Tim Sunday in North Syracuse at another celebration and it is also identical to the other ones with all the where as and there you go. [Applause] And now, Mayor John Heindorf from the great Village of North Syracuse.

JOHN HEINDORF: Thank you very much. It is an honor and a privilege for me to be here to honor Tim Ellis as the 2009 recipient of FASNY's Firefighter of the Year. For those of North Syracuse there is a proclamation and I think in the Lobby, that I will not read because this has I think, seven or eight where as's which sets a record for the Village of North Syracuse. I would like to make a few short remarks. Pervasive to say in all my years in Village government, I have never been given an assignment more meaningful or been in attendance for an award more magnitude or this important. Unfortunately many people take the fire service for granted, but not firefighters and certainly on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Tim Ellis knew all too well what was at stake when he arrived at the scene at 421 South Main Street in North Syracuse, New York. He recognized that all the ingredients for disaster where there, a person on the top floor trying to stick his head out of the window to breathe, heavy smoke around the victim and despite being called no mutual aid had arrived on the scene and that was because Tim arrived in near two minutes after the call had come in. But, without the protection a hose line, Tim Ellis made the only

decision that he knew how to make, a decision that often not everyone would have made. He entered the building with great courage and purpose and subsequently despite much difficulty where we have already described where he was getting disoriented twice and had to call for a mayday and he saved a fellow human beings life. Which on God's green earth is a great, great act of courage and heroism. I mentioned that all the ingredients for disaster were there, but not let us forget the ingredients for success were there. Tim's courage number one, first and foremost. Second, extensive training, his dedication, his passion for the fire service and his fellow man and forgive me, we have got a lot of great firefighters and fire departments in this building and forgive me if I sound a little bias, but I plead guilty if I do, because it belongs to the number one fire department in the State of New York, the North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department under the direction of Mark Hogan, Chief of the Department. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Tim's wife, Caryn, like many other firefighters wives and spouses, she gives a tremendous amount of support and sacrifice to allow Tim to do his job as a firefighter for North Syracuse, so Caryn from the Village of North Syracuse, thank you very much too and I guess without much further a dew, Tim, I want to congratulate you and this is a plaque for you. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: If you see us bouncing around, we have a three year old that has been making loops around everybody up here. Let me introduce Tim's family, I'll introduce them all and they will stand and then one big applause at the end. Tim's wife, Caryn, Nathan you see running around. Tim's mother, Lenore, his mother's friend Thayer Parrish, Tim's father, Richard Ellis, Step-mother Denise Ellis, Brother, Jonathan Ellis. Mother-in-law, Bernice Calabria, Brother-in-law, Dominick Calabria, Lisa Calabria, Sister-in-law, Nephew, Dominick Calabria, another nephew, Daniel Calabria. Brother-in-law, Matthew Teixeira, Sister-in-law, Carol Teixeira, Nephew, Michael Teixeira and niece, Ashley Teixeira and along with Chief Mark Hogan and his girlfriend, Mary Schiltz. [Applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, I again give you the Firefighter of the Year, Assistant Chief Tim Ellis and would you like to say a few words? [APPLAUSE]

TIMOTHY ELLIS: This is overwhelming. I am deeply honored to receive this prestigious award. I would like to thank Chief Hogan for the nomination and the FASNY Firefighter of the Year Committee for selecting me as the recipient. As firefighters we share a special bond, that bond sets the foundation for everything that we do. Our firehouses become a second home and in every home there is a family and that is what we have here. As a family we work towards a common goal and that goal is to save lives and property, while providing the best possible service to our communities. As firefighters we celebrate the beginning of life and mourn the tragedy of death together. Through this bond we learn to honor and respect each other. We become a team and like any team, we spend hours, days, weeks and months practicing and preparing for what be might next. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the North Syracuse Fire Department was facing a challenging fire. Although my actions are being recognized today, we must not forget the courageous efforts of all personnel that night. As this incident progressed and the situation worsened, we assembled as a team, overcame some obstacles and in the end accomplished the goal of saving a life. I would like to thank Chief Mark Hogan and Deputy Chief Pat Brennan, gentlemen, your guidance and leadership proved to be instrumental throughout this incident. I would like to thank all the North Syracuse firefighters that responded to the Main Street fire. As the fire scene changed, so did your assignments. Your ability to adapt to these changes, lead to the triumphant outcome and I thank you. Special thanks to Lieutenant Fabio and Tim Latham for the assistance you provided to the victim and me. Proudly we can say that's how we roll. To all the emergency management staff, the mutual aid companies, police agencies, EMS personal who responded or assisted with the East Main Street fire, your prompt response and professionalism contributed to the positive conclusion of this incident and I thank you. I would like to thank the Onondaga County 911 Center, both on a professional level and a personal level. You were the link that pulled us together; your actions for this event spoke louder than your words. Special thanks to the fire dispatchers who worked diligently behind the scenes to insure that additional resources were sent for both the victim and me. Special thanks to the [ ] Ambulance and the crew of angels that provide the medical treatment to resuscitate and save the life of the victim. I would like to thank the past and present Chiefs, line Officers and firefighters of the North Syracuse Fire Department and the members of our Ladies Auxiliary. It is your leadership, hard work and dedication that brought us here today and is going to forecast where we go tomorrow. To my family and friends, thank you for sharing this special moment with me. I am blessed with your love and support in everything that I do. To Grandma Bea, Happy Birthday.

[Applause] To my wife, Caryn and my son, Nathan, God made us a family and I am forever thankful. Together we can do anything, without you I am nothing, because of you my heart overflows with joy everyday. Thank you and I love you. [Applause] In closing, I just want to say that this award represents this each and every one of you. It's about who you are and what you do, take care of each other and stay safe. Thank you again and God bless. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: Sorry for the technical problems. I call upon my Vice Chairman, Mr. Michael Nielson to present flowers to the winner's wife.

P. MICHAEL NIELSON: Thank you, Roger. As it was said by the Mayor, the wives also sacrifice a lot for all of our firemen and all of us. From the Firemen's Association of the State of New York and the Firefighter of the Year Committee, I would like to give you a little something to help brighten the day and I guarantee you a break this afternoon because Nathan has put on at least ten miles running around back here and he is going to take a nap. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: I now call upon, Firefighter of the Year Committee Member, Don Farrell to present a gift from FASNY to the winner's wife.

DONALD FARRELL: Thank you, Roger. Caryn on behalf of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, a small gift as a token of our appreciation for allowing your husband to do what he does on a daily basis and for the support that every wife gives all us in the room here everyday. Thank you. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: I call upon Committee member Peter Holmes to present a small gift to the child.

PETER HOLMES: We have a little something here to keep Nathan busy and I think he will enjoy it. Thank you. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: I now call upon President Tom Cuff to present the Department plaque to the Chief of the North Syracuse Fire Department, Chief Mark Hogan.

PRESIDENT THOMAS CUFF: Chief, it is a pleasure on behalf of the officers and member of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, as well as all of those present to make this presentation to you, because this efforts gentlemen's would not have happened were it not for the preparation and the training and guidance given by the officers of any fire department and I certainly want to congratulate the North Syracuse Fire Department for certainly entering that building, because otherwise this would not have happened. Congratulations. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: Now, a few words from Chief Hogan.

CHIEF MARK HOGAN: Thank you everyone. I am only going to say you guys once, so I will get it out of the way now and I won't say it again. It is a tremendous honor to be here representing the North Syracuse Fire Department. We are a second award winner of this prestigious award. I would like to thank FASNY and the Committee for recognizing us for what we do on a regular basis. Back in 1977, former member of our fire department, who is now deceased, Al Lewis, received the award for his rescue at a fire of a small child. If you look at the program, there are not too many fire departments that can say they are multiple award recipients of this award. It is truly an honor for the North Syracuse Fire Department to be here representing a second award for the department. It is a big thing for our fire department to show that we know how to do what we do and we do it right and we wouldn't be here, like Tim said for not for the other fire department that mutual aided with us on a regular basis, the other fire department in Onondaga County and most of all our fire department and particularly our members. I truly appreciate everything that you guys have done for us and our wives, girlfriends and everything you guys do to support us, because without your support we wouldn't be here today. We wouldn't have the time and effort that we could put into this. So, again thank you all for being here to support us and our fire

department and the mutual aid departments that run with us on a regular basis, thank you as well. Tim, Congratulations. [Applause]

ROGER PUTNAM: I would like to introduce the past winners of the FASNY Firefighter of the Year Award that are with us today, Mike Reid from Merrick. [Applause] And on my own Committee, Donny Farrell from Ossining. [Applause] Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of past Chairman of the Firefighter of the Year Committee, Charlie Kraft who just recently passed away. I was told that before I did this presentation that this whole Award Ceremony was going to be video taped and it will be available on the FASNY website starting Monday with names and captions and it should be a pretty nice presentation. The luncheon will follow immediately after the Awards Ceremony. The luncheon is sold out, the luncheon is 180 people. Please have your ticket ready, there is a list of people who have tickets for the luncheon. The luncheon will be held right behind those black drapes right there, roughly at 12 o'clock. Before we conclude with this morning's presentation, I would be remiss if I didn't thank the following people who helped put this memorable program together. Thank you very much too all the members of the North Syracuse Fire Department for their Color Guard and all the department members who have come to support their fellow member. FASNY Secretary, Michael D. Whelan. Legislative Representative, Kirby T. Hannan. Steve Abbott from Adirondack Awards. FASNY Sergeant-at-Arms, John Haley and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Wink Kelsey. General Convention Chairman, Ed Tase and his Co-Chairman, Gary Hunt. Travis Bort and his crew at ABC Creations for their outstanding EMS and Firefighter of the Year Program design. And finally, specially thanks to the Norwood Fire Department Band for their fine musical renditions under the direction of Bob Haggett and Musical Director, Bob Thorpe.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have come to the close of the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual FASNY Firefighter of the Year and EMS Award Program. I know that the fire service community can be proud of our selection again this year and I assure you that this winning application will be forwarded to the Eastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs for their consideration on a national level. We hope that the standardization of our recently updated FASNY Firefighter of the Year and EMS application forms will make the nomination process easier for department Chiefs and Officers to submit in the years to come. We also hope that the many sectional organizations throughout the State will also forward their Firefighter of the Year and EMS Provider of the Year applications to our individual Committees each year for their consideration as great things are happening throughout the State, but unfortunately we never hear about them for consideration. I thank you for your kind attention to our program this morning. I would finally like to thank the entire Firefighter of the Year Committee and EMS Committee for another job well done as we all worked as a team to make this years ceremony another memorable Awards Presentation. Finally to our Firefighter of the Year Committee Liaison, Robert McConville and EMS Committee Liaison, Michael Reid for their combined assistance in working with both Committees this year. I would now ask that the Sergeant-at Arms come forward and escort the 2009 Firefighter of the Year, Officers, Department Members, Family Members and Guests from the hall. Mr. President, this concludes my yearly report, I thank you. [Applause]

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Thank you very much. Quickly, just a couple of announcements and reminders. At 12:30, Chief Al Brunacini, "Functional Boss Behaviors", Cascades One. At 2:15, the Fire Service Round Table, featuring all of our speakers located in Cascades Two. At 4 o'clock, change this time on your schedule, is the 2% Tax Forum here in this room. I would also like to remind everyone that tickets are also available for Jim Ryan's Testimonial Dinner, Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> up in Lake George. You can see Bobby or Tommy McKinney for tickets. I guess at this time I would like to recess Session Two, is there a motion?

Assembly: Aye.

VICE PRESIDENT JACOBOWITZ: Ok. Directors, please come up to the stage for a brief meeting.

Adjourned at 11:30 am