

## **FASNY'S ISSUES - 2010**

**CONSOLIDATION** – Amendments to the consolidation statute passed in the prior legislative session that would address the concerns of the Volunteers regarding dissolution or consolidation of local governments.

**VFBL & VAWBL REFORM** - Working with the Governor and Legislature FASNY seeks to overhaul the Volunteer Firefighter and Ambulance Worker Benefit Law to allow for an equation of benefits currently paid under the Worker Compensation statutes. In addition FASNY will negotiate to:

**MAKE THE HEART BILL PERMANENT** – To make permanent the law requiring that heart related benefits be paid unless evidence indicates otherwise.

**ESTABLISH A COST OF LIVING ESCALATOR FOR VFBL & VAWBL** – As part of VFBL, VAWBL reform a COLA is a critical element of negotiations.

**EXTEND CANCER IMPAIRMENT BENEFITS** – This law must be extended for at least two years which requires lung related cancer benefits be paid unless evidence indicates otherwise.

**EXPAND CANCER IMPAIRMENT COVERAGE** – This would extend the above mentioned cancer impairment benefits to other major internal organs.

**PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR NON-JURISDICTIONAL ASSISTANCE** – This would create coverage for first response outside a volunteer's normal jurisdiction.

**EXPAND VFBL COVERAGE FOR FITNESS PROGRAMS** – This would create coverage for in-hours fitness programs when approved by Chief.

**HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENTS** – to address generalities in the new health insurance law in order to clarify the requirements of the local municipalities and the administration of benefits.

**LOW INTEREST LOAN FUND** – To assure that adequate and continuous funding for the Emergency Services Low Interest Revolving Loan Program is maintained in the budget at the levels required to meet the needs of the fire service by requesting a one time additional increase to allow for funding needed to meet the anticipated demand.

**HIV SOURCE PATIENT TESTING** – that would be required when an emergency responder suffers a blood or body fluid exposure.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE ACT** – to enact legislation to establish procedures that will create a system for the reimbursement of cleanup costs associated with the release of hazardous materials by known and unknown parties.

**BLUE LIGHT & HIGHWAY SAFETY ZONE** – that would amend Vehicle & Traffic law to allow fire and ambulance vehicles to use the blue light for rear projection only and to create a highway emergency incident safety zone delineated by red, white and blue lights which would carry increased penalties for violators.

**SEX OFFENDER BACKGROUND CHECK** – Allow for a criminal background check for membership in a volunteer fire department or EMS squad and to prohibit sex offenders from membership.

**COST RECOVERY FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE** – To amend the General Municipal Law to authorize fire departments that provide emergency medical services to establish fees and charge for the services.

**EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF LOSAP AWARDS** – To amend the Tax Law to make it consistent with NYS Tax Department policy that allows for LOSAP awards taken in a monthly payment to be treated for tax purposes the same as pensions received by State and local government employees.

**FAIR BILLING FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT UTILITY RATES** – To enact legislation that would prohibit the Public Service Commission from applying the peak demand billing requirement to Not-for-Profit Fire Departments.

**MUNICIPAL DEPOSITS FOR CREDIT UNIONS** – To amend relevant state statutes to allow local governments and Fire Districts to deposit their public funds in credit unions.