

## **FASNY'S ISSUES - 2011**

**CONSOLIDATION** – To enact legislation that would amend the consolidation statute.

**VFBL & VAWBL REFORM** – To support legislation to increase weekly VFBL/VAWBL benefit levels and to create parities with the Worker Compensation Reform Act of 2007, including appropriate cost of living adjustments to benefit recipients.

**EXPANDED CANCER IMPAIRMENT** – To enact legislation that would amend the Volunteer Firefighters' Benefit Law to establish a presumption as to the cause of certain disabilities including brain cancer.

**COVERAGE FOR NON-JURISDICTIONAL ASSISTANCE** – To amend VFBL and VAWBL to provide for coverage in instances where a responder is located outside his or her jurisdiction or area of responsibility.

**EXTEND VFBL BENEFITS** – Amend VFBL to expand benefits to include injuries sustained while participating in an approved physical fitness program.

**LOW INTEREST LOAN FUNDING** – To assure that adequate and continuous funding for the Emergency Services Low Interest Revolving Loan Program is maintained 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.

**TRAINING FUNDING** – Within the budget process, to ensure adequate training funding be made available to OFPC to accomplish the amount of training requested by the state fire service organizations with no cuts from the previous year.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL EMERGENCY REIMBURSEMENT ACT** – To enact legislation to establish a statewide hazardous material safety program and to establish a system for the reimbursement of cleanup costs associated with the release of hazardous materials by known and unknown parties.

**FELONY SEX OFFENDERS** – Amend the Executive Law, Village Law and General Municipal Law to allow for a criminal background check of individuals applying for membership in a volunteer fire department or volunteer emergency medical services who have been convicted of a felony sex offense, mandating expulsion or refusal of membership.

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

**UTILITY RATE REDUCTION** – To enact legislation to enable volunteer fire and ambulance companies to receive lower utility rates.

**NOVELTY LIGHTERS** – To amend the General Business Law to prohibit the retail sale and distribution of novelty lighters.

**JOB PROTECTION** – To amend the Labor Law to prohibit an employer from terminating an employee who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer emergency medical services when that employee misses or is late to work because of an emergency.

**TUITION AWARDS** – To amend the Education Law to provide tuition awards to children of emergency responders who are totally permanently disabled.

**911 SURCHARGE DISTRIBUTION** – To assure that an adequate and representative funding exist for 911 coordination purposes derived from cellular and landline surcharges.

**SAFETY HARNESS** – To support legislation that clarifies the requirements of existing law and regulation regarding above ground evacuation equipment and procedures.