Hey, Firefighter … Cancer is Real … Believe Me!

FASNY Convention Schedule

Inside Versus Outside:
Picking Sides in the Fire Dynamics Research
Testimonial Dinner Honoring FASNY Director
Brian F. McQueen

Saturday, October 7, 2017
Hart’s Hill Inn, 135 Clinton Street, Whitesboro, NY
6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Cocktails with one-hour open bar begin at 6:00 p.m.
Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Cash bar 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Dress code is business casual.
$50 per person
Make checks payable to:
Whitesboro Fire Department
171 Oriskany Blvd., Whitesboro, NY 13492
Please include the number of tickets, your name(s), address and fire organization as well as a note whether a presentation will be made.
Donations to the Believe 271 Foundation are also welcome!
For more information, please contact Kevin Lansing at (315) 200-5842 or kevin_lansing@yahoo.com

Friday, August 11, 2017
at Drumlins Country Club, 800 Nottingham Road, Syracuse
Check-In: 10:30 a.m., Lunch: 11:00 a.m., Shotgun Start: Noon, Banquet with Guest Speaker: 6:00 p.m.
Men’s, Women’s, Senior and Mixed Divisions. Non-fire personnel also invited to participate.
Register at www.fasny.com/convention

4TH ANNUAL FASNY FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

With Guest Speaker
Dan Conley!
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As I begin writing this article, I am in Alexandria, Virginia, preparing for the Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI) meetings in Washington, D.C., and the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) meetings in Virginia. FASNY has just learned that our attempt to have Enhanced Cancer Coverage for Volunteer Firefighters included in the state budget will not happen.

The New York State Assembly continued their discrimination against the volunteer fire service in our great State. There are 92,000 volunteer firefighters in New York and 17,000 members of the career service. While the most populated areas of New York are served by career firefighters (including the cities where the governor and speaker live), the greatest percentage of the state, by area, is protected by the professional volunteer fire service. The fact that our brothers and sisters are continuously exposed to the same carcinogens as those in career departments is not recognized by our elected officials. We have been fighting for equal treatment by our State government for more than three years now. I have had many discussions with firefighters across the State, and the consensus is that we need to get tougher on this issue. Suggestions include a class-action lawsuit to bring the issue to the Assembly floor for a vote. It is mind boggling to me how a bill that has 76 co-sponsors cannot make it to the floor for a vote. A second suggestion is a “Stand Down for Cancer Day.” The fire service would choose a day, perhaps Memorial Day or the Fourth of July, during which we would not perform any duties other than emergency responses. When the public inquired why we were not participating in our local community parade, we would respectfully inform them that, until the volunteer fire service is treated fairly by our State government, we will not participate in any event where a State elected official is present. FASNY will not back down on this issue until our members are treated fairly and receive the protection they deserve.

By the time this issue of the magazine reaches your mailbox, a number of events will be concluded or about to occur. Look for reports on the Joint Lobby Day event and the 125th Anniversary of the Firemen’s Home Celebration in upcoming issues of *The Volunteer Firefighter*.

At the 2015 FASNY convention, a motion was made that the governance of FASNY be reviewed with the possibility of making changes to our organizational structure. Then-President Robert N. McConville formed a committee, chaired by Tim Hannigan, to review FASNY’s governance and report back to the membership. This Committee has worked diligently for the past two years and has prepared a report to you as directed. Chairman Hannigan will be attending each Sectional Convention to report the findings of the Committee and the recommended changes. At this year’s Convention, the proposed by-law revisions needed to make the recommended changes to our governance will be presented for approval. The bylaw changes will be voted on as one block. It is imperative that you attend your Sectional Convention to listen to Tim’s report so that you can make an informed decision in August.

Finally, as I know you are aware, FASNY has commissioned a study to determine the scope of cancer in the volunteer fire service in New York State. This will be the first-ever definitive study of cancer among volunteer firefighters anywhere. The Board of Directors has committed more than $1.5 million to this study. In order to present a true and accurate report, the panel conducting the study hopes to capture certain information on current and former members of the State’s volunteer fire service, including deceased members. Opportunities to provide information should be available very soon and I urge you to help us obtain the requested data on as many of your department and company members as possible. Very little personal information is needed and it will be used exclusively for this one study. It is our hope that the results of this study will provide, for the first time, the extent of certain cancers among our members and allow us to better train to protect ourselves from exposure.

This is the time of year that Sectional Conventions begin. I look forward to traveling to your area and hearing of your concerns and advancements in the fire service world. Stay safe.

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**President’s Message**

Steven E. Klein – First Vice President
As I start the second quarter in this position, I thought it would be beneficial to update you on some training information that I have heard while attending meetings around the state.

The first meeting was with all the state fire associations and Office of Fire Prevention and Control staff at a training summit held in February. All the associations updated those in attendance, as well as those who host an annual conference or convention on their respective training programs.

One main action item that came out of the meeting was to create an updated policy for fire department funerals and Line of Duty Deaths as well as develop a training program for local departments. The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs has had a policy for many years that they provided in their Fire Chief’s Handbook. The idea of updating it came from Charlie Mutz, Fire Coordinator of Ulster County, after the loss of 19-year-old Lieutenant Jack Rose in a Line of Duty Death. It was mentioned that there are many resources needed and preplanning done for this type of event that would have helped him greatly. It is a goal of the individuals at this meeting to make this a joint project of all the fire service associations and OFPC so it would help lower the burden on the fire department and county officials who might have this unfortunate event happen in their area.

My most recent trip was to the County Fire Coordinators Association of the State of New York Conference in April. The conference opened with an update from our new State Fire Administrator Francis “Skip” Nerney. I have listed these announcements below and encourage you to follow up with your local training contacts or the contacts I provided for further information.

• A new “Surface Water Rescue” course has been approved. The first offering of the course will be sometime in the fall. This course will be incorporated into the new SWFT facility under construction at the SPTC in Oriskany. Check with your local OFPC Fire Protection Specialist for further information.

• In early 2015, the OFPC’s Investigation Unit began evaluating the current format and course content for their fire investigation courses. They found court rulings, legal challenges and scrutiny in the forensic sciences, coupled with large financial settlements for wrongful prosecution, were the main reasons to make these changes in their current educational programs. Contact your Fire Coordinator for more information regarding two new courses: “Introduction to Fire Investigation” and “Fire Investigation.”

• The New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) recently ordered gas utilities to develop enhanced fire department outreach and training programs. The goal is to offer better hands-on training, communications and working relationships between the gas utilities and fire departments throughout New York State. New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas & Electric (RGE) are offering a $500 donation to any fire department in their gas service territories. This will allow them to visit and present their natural gas emergency response training class. They advise that they have mailed this information to all of the fire departments in their coverage areas. If you have any questions, you can follow up with Allen Peterson, NYSEG Manager of Gas Engineering, at ampetersen@nyseg.com

As I continue to attend meetings around the State, I ask for suggestions on training topics and techniques. Most fire departments have a good training platform, but need something different to add a little safe fun to their training topics. So, I’m asking that if you have developed a special training program or added a technique to enhance your basic training, please contact me at jwilson@fasny.com. I would be more than happy to help get the information out to our brothers and sisters in the fire service.
The Volunteer Firefighter

Over the last few years, the volunteer fire service has started to try to come to grips with the growth of firefighting-related cancer. FASNY has been at the forefront of this effort, working through both regulatory and legislative channels to combat this scourge.

As this magazine issue lands in mailboxes, the Scholarship Committee will be preparing to award college scholarships to 20 service-oriented high school seniors. The Gerard J. Buckenmeier FASNY Volunteer Scholarship program is made possible each June through the generous donations of individuals, fire departments and auxiliaries. This year, Provident Agency Inc., the provider of the accidental death and dismemberment insurance for FASNY members, has again provided major underwriting support to help FASNY award scholarships to young volunteers. FASNY would also like to recognize the in-kind support donated by McNeil and Co., which provides more than 80 hours of administrative work needed to process the applications and awards.

Membership Corner

By Harrison Breuer, FASNY Member Outreach Coordinator

It takes a brave and selfless individual to be a volunteer first responder. The leadership and staff of the Association are dedicated to supporting our brothers and sisters in the volunteer fire service at every stage of their life.

As of May 2, FASNY's membership stands at 44,480, an increase of 577 since February 28.

In addition to celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Firemen’s Home this year, June marks the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the “new” Home. To keep the building in pristine condition, we will soon need to replace worn flooring in the common areas, purchase new physical therapy equipment and major appliances, as well as plan for other major repairs as the HVAC system and therapy pool age. For that reason, FASNY has established the Firemen’s Home Special Projects Fund for capital improvements that are not in the Home’s annual operating budget.

If you would like to learn more about how you can support the FASNY Firemen's Home, a special project or a FASNY event, please contact the Development Office at (800) 232-7692, x722, or email gshultis@fasny.com

Moving FASNY Forward

By Gina Salvato Shultis, FASNY Director of Development

The leadership and staff of the Association are dedicated to supporting our brothers and sisters in the volunteer fire service at every stage of their life.

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While our efforts to have all fire service-related cancers covered are still underway, we’ve also been working with insurers to see if they have programs geared toward this need. We are pleased to make our members aware that Colonial and AFLAC are the first of what we hope will be many companies that have crafted products to deal with this issue.

We have created a web page at www.fasny.com/cancer-volunteer-fire-service where we have links to resources as well as descriptions of the plans offered by both Colonial and AFLAC. You can also follow links directly to these insurers’ pages, where they have full information on their coverage in addition to enrollment instructions and contact information.

FASNY invites you to visit this page and familiarize yourself with the options listed. If they meet your needs, please take advantage of them. We anticipate this page will grow as new companies bring us their plans and we will be adding more resources on treatment and prevention as well.

As of May 2, FASNY’s membership stands at 44,480, an increase of 577 since February 28.
As we move past the adoption of the 2017-18 New York State budget, this is a good time to provide our readers with a legislative update. FASNY has worked diligently this year to craft priority legislation designed to protect and support volunteer firefighters throughout New York State. The FASNY Legislative Agenda, or Scorecard, can be found by going to www.fasny.com/legislation/scorecard. The Scorecard is updated regularly and provides information concerning FASNY priority bills. As your Legislative Representative, Albany Strategic Advisors (ASA) also tracks all bills that have an impact on the volunteer fire service. We do this to identify any additional legislation that may need to be elevated to our priority list.

The budget was a rollercoaster to say the least. The New York Legislature and the Governor battled over many threshold issues that led to a late adoption of the budget. FASNY had great support throughout the budget process and, through Senator Kathy Marchione, FASNY secured additional funding that will be earmarked for recruitment and retention. The New York State Senate, led by Senator Joseph Griffo, also proposed as part of the budget the inclusion of Senate Bill 1411 (Griffo)/Assembly Bill 711 (Gunther) which would have provided presumptive cancer coverage to volunteer firefighters. Although the presumptive cancer legislation was not included in the final adopted budget, there was significant and positive discussion that will help us as we push for its passage in the remaining days of the session.

Although the presumptive cancer legislation did not make the final budget, this does not in any way hinder our efforts to pass the bill before the end of the 2017 New York State legislative session. In the last month, FASNY has had productive meetings with the Local Governments Committee Chair in the New York State Assembly and we continue to discuss the bill with the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) and the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM). Both NYSAC and NYCOM have been extremely open and forthcoming in their efforts to see if we can find a legislative path which will protect our volunteer firefighters as well as ensure the financial stability of the VFBL program. Although we are a long way from passing this bill in the Assembly, we do feel that positive steps have been made in addressing this important legislative issue.

Finally, I wanted to briefly touch on the EMS billing legislation. This legislation would allow volunteer fire departments to bill for ambulance service and has taken some positive steps forward. The bill has moved out of the Senate Local Governments Committee and we secured a new and active sponsor in the Assembly in Assemblywoman Addie Jenne. We are hopeful that through Assemblywoman Jenne’s active leadership, and the leadership of Senator Betty Little, that additional movement will occur with this bill during the 2017 legislative session.

FASNY will continue to work diligently on our entire Legislative Agenda and, as the 2017 session comes to a close at the end of June, we are hopeful that we will see significant movement in some of the bills discussed in this article as well as other bills currently on our Scorecard.
As Chaplain of FASNY, I am often asked for prayers for special occasions. For this edition of the Rekindled Spirit, I thought that I would include a brief order of service for the decommissioning of a firehouse and also an order of service for the dedication of a memorial site. Please visit the New York State Association of Fire Chaplains website at www.nysafc.org for additional information. May the Lord bless and protect you in His service.

**Brief Order of Service for the Decommissioning of a Firehouse**

**Invocation**
The Firefighter’s 23rd Psalm – Farewell Prayer

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we invoke Your blessing upon us as we enter into this very significant service in remembrance of those who have served in former years. We pray the cherished memories that well up in our hearts now may be a source of inspiration to us so that we may serve in our time as well as they served in their day.

As we go from this firehouse and from the celebration to our new station, we pray that we may give to our community the same high devotion to duty, the same contribution of ourselves to the welfare of life that was given each day, so that we may build in this time a heritage worthy to be handed to those generations yet to come. Our prayers are offered in the spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Benediction**

**Moment of Silence**

**Order of Service for the Dedication of a Memorial Site**

**Invocation**

A lifetime on earth is not enough. God in His infinite wisdom has plans far beyond our comprehension – plans which could not end in death.

Oh Lord, we set aside this special place to honor those who have given to us and our community the example of the ultimate in service. Help us to fill the void in our hearts and remember those who are no longer with us. May this physical place be a reminder of the intangible spirit of serving mankind.

Give us the knowledge that our brothers and sisters are at peace and have joined those who have gone before them in triumph. Help us to lift our heads higher to the heavens, where there is glory and a challenge to serve a generation yet to come.

Almighty God, as we remember those who have passed away and are no longer with us in the fire service, fill the emptiness that is in our own hearts with the knowledge that they are at peace. Accept our thankfulness for their leadership, dedication and example of service. May their ultimate sacrifice and spirit of service be ours also as we leave this sacred place. Grant to those who mourn the spirit of faith and hope and the sweet expectation of a joyful reunion in eternity. Amen.

**Benediction**

May the Lord go before you to lead you, behind you to encourage you, beside you to comfort you, beneath you to uphold you, above you to protect you, and within you to inspire you. Amen.

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**FASNY Director, Secretary Selected for National Committees**

FASNY Director Brian F. McQueen was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC). McQueen has long served as the New York State/FASNY representative on the Board of Directors for the organization that supports the volunteer fire service across the country.

FASNY Secretary John S. D’Alessandro was recently appointed to the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Volunteer and Combination Officers Section Communications Committee. The Committee is responsible for communications related to issues of importance that affect volunteer and combination fire organizations throughout the U.S.
Once again departments gave a huge boost to the visibility of the New York State volunteer fire service and grew their membership during RecruitNY Weekend April 29 and 30.

Almost 500 fire organizations hosted open houses to attract attention and sign up new volunteers in communities across the state. Potential recruits were treated to barbecues, demonstrations and other events that also drew coverage by local media in many locations.

From Long Island to Buffalo and many, many places in between, departments not only grew their ranks, but also raised awareness of the exceptional dedication and essential service that volunteer firefighters offer their communities.

Started in 2011, RecruitNY has helped add upward of 20,000 volunteers over the years. The unique event not only unites hundreds of volunteer fire organizations, but also serves as a year-round recruitment effort by way of www.recruitny.org

There are numerous recruitment resources that departments can use to recruit throughout the year on the website, including open house promotional materials and handouts to use at any community friendly event.

FASNY offers a special thanks to all the departments that participated as well as the sponsors that helped spread the word and made RecruitNY 2017 a great success.
FASNY President Kenneth Pienkowski (right) and FASNY Public Relations Committee Vice Chair Gordy Kotars stopped by the Cicero Fire Department.

Ladders were raised across New York as departments got creative with their demonstrations.

St. Johnsburg Fire Co. won a visit from Mercy Flight to draw some attention to its open house.

West Crescent firefighters were ready for the crowds during RecruitNY Weekend.

Ladders were raised across New York as departments got creative with their demonstrations.

Howlett Hill Fire Department put on some lively demonstrations for visitors.

Almost 500 volunteer fire departments opened their doors for RecruitNY April 29 and 30.
Deerfield Fire Department proudly hosted tours of the station during RecruitNY weekend.

Whitesboro firefighters turned up the heat for their open house event.

Woodgate Volunteer Fire Department offered visitors tours of their apparatus.

Westfield Fire Department did some demonstrations for potential recruits and their families.

Visitors were invited to suit up at many open houses.

Photos provided by Andrew Croniser, David Haase, Lyle Holland, Gordy Kotars, Brian F. McQueen and Lynn O’Donnell.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEW RECRUITS!
SEND US YOUR VOLUNTEER PROFILE FORMS TODAY!

We need your new recruit referrals! The Volunteer Profile Form available at www.fasny.com/VolunteerProfile helps keep track of new recruits.

Submit it electronically, print and fax to (518) 694-3137 or email to recruit@fasny.com
FASNY and New York State Association of Fire Chiefs leaders spent a productive day on Capitol Hill gaining support for Assistance to Firefighters Grants and SAFER funding along with many other issues benefitting the state and national fire services.

The trip included visits with both New York Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand as well as a number of U.S. Representatives, including Congresswoman Claudia Tenney shown in photo above.

USDA Rural Development Supports the Fire Service

The USDA Rural Development recognizes the unique challenges that rural first responders face every day. The Community Facilities (CF) program provides funding that is helping firefighters and emergency responders better protect the health, safety and well-being of their communities.

In addition to emergency vehicles like fire trucks, ambulances and police cars, eligible projects include fire halls, equipment, radios, computers, defibrillators and weather sirens.

Over the last decade, USDA Rural Development has invested over $50 million in loans and grants to build or improve over 150 essential community facilities throughout rural New York State. In September of 2015, USDA Rural Development provided a $2.3 million loan and a $30,000 grant through its Community Facilities program to build the new two-story fire station in Colton. The new station includes nearly 11,000 square feet for rescue and emergency vehicles, operations, a radio room, kitchenette and office space.

“I have to be honest with you, when Renee Hotte from the U.S. Department of Agriculture met with us and said they could help us build a new fire station, I did a double take,” Colton Fire District Chairman James Cayey said. “Just how was the USDA involved with assisting first responders?” I asked. Well, they certainly showed me – and I am glad they were there to partner with us to help safeguard our community.”

The new fire station is a considerable update from Colton’s original one, which was built in the 1950s. The station could no longer accommodate the vehicles and equipment operated by the fire department. For instance, the bay doors were either too short or too narrow for the engines and ambulances, there was no ventilation system in the truck bays, limited operating space presented regular challenges to the crews, there was little to no energy efficiency to speak of and it was not handicap accessible.

The new station addresses all of these issues and adds a clock tower that serves as a training tower for ingress/egress drills, ladder operations and rappelling.

USDA Rural Development Program Basics

The program can help fund a variety of projects for public safety services – such as fire departments and emergency medical service organizations. Loans are available to purchase buildings and new equipment, as well as to renovate and construct facilities. Some applicants may qualify for partial grant funding to purchase equipment.

The following can apply: not for profit organizations and public bodies (cities, towns, special-purpose districts and villages with populations of 20,000 or less that are unable to obtain commercial credit).

For more about this and other programs offered by USDA Rural Development, visit www.rd.usda.gov/NY or call (315) 477-6400, x4. Information will also be available at the FASNY Convention August 9-12 in Syracuse.
Spring is the time of year to pull out the broom, the cleaning supplies and the trash bags to start our spring cleaning ritual.

For some of us, this is a short event. We are able to sort through old belongings, recognize what we have no further positive use for, what we have outgrown physically or emotionally, and we choose the proper way to dispose of these items: recycle, give away or throw away.

For others, it is a grueling month-long (or longer) process in which we find ourselves struggling to part with items that we have packed away for years and years, that no longer have any true use or value to us, but to which we still find some unexplainable attachment. As we pour through our closets, cupboards and attics and encounter these old trinkets, we spin into a state of nostalgia and may find ourselves unable to make the decision to remove these items from the clutter of our lives. And so, in a state of indecision, we allow these items to remain in our households, where they take up space, create clutter and often prevent us from moving on and “upgrading” our lives.

Which of these two spring cleaning scenarios describe you? This spring, take the time to evaluate the physical and emotional “garbage” contributing to your current state of health. What have you been “packing away” for years? Is it a few extra pounds? Is it cigarettes? Is it a cupboard full of refined sugars? Is it a claim that “I am too busy to exercise?”

What are the negative behaviors that are cluttering your life? Self-indulgence? Self-neglect? Self-punishment? This spring, it is time to let these go. It is time to identify them, make peace with them and then throw them into the proverbial trash can so that you can make way for new positive behaviors.

What have you been wanting to do for yourself, but haven’t had the space or time for? This is the time of year for fresh starts, new beginnings and above all else: growth. You have the power to remove the negative from your life and replace it with the positive. And while it may seem overwhelming all at once, you can pick one part of your life to “clean” at a time. Room by room, move through your physical and emotional house and make space for new and improved behaviors to grow! And you will find that this type of self-cleaning will become easier and easier with each spring that passes. So, start cleaning!
Try This

A simple place to start with your personal spring cleaning is in the kitchen. A general rule of thumb to follow when evaluating your kitchen is that at least three-quarters of your food should be fresh or frozen with no additives (including added sugar) or processing. Below are some tips to help you sort through the good, the recyclable and the garbage.

Throw Out ...

- All expired items. If possible, dispose of the food in the trash or compost and recycle the containers.
- Anything you can no longer identify, especially in the freezer. Throw out anything in the freezer with freezer burn.
- Old bags of Halloween and Easter candy. Yes, you! We know you still have stockpiles from your kids’ stash. Get rid of them!
- Super-caffeinated energy beverages. This includes Mountain Dew and Red Bull. There is a reason most food banks won’t even accept these as a donation!

Donate ...

- Highly refined products like white rice, white bread and pasta.
- High-sodium items like soup and canned vegetables.
- Canned pastas and ravioli.
- High-sugar cereals or those with less than two grams of fiber per serving.
- Regular potato chips, cookies and unnecessary snacks.
- High-fat or high-sodium processed food mixes like hamburger helpers, macaroni and cheese, flavored rice and pasta.
- Anything you do not love. If you have foods you do not love or look forward to preparing and eating, get rid of them! There are too many great, healthy food choices to force yourself to eat ones you don’t love.

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Somewhere in the U.S., there are two young volunteer firefighters who have become great friends through the fire service. They enjoy the brotherhood and elation of helping others on their worst days. Sadly, statistics have shown that one of these dedicated firefighters – husband/wife, father/mother and friend – will be diagnosed with some form of cancer in their lifetime. Alarming is an understatement!

With the big push on recruitment and retention in the volunteer fire service during the month of April, we can’t lose sight of the important issues that we all face being a volunteer firefighter today.

Sure, we hear about the probationary firefighters’ dreams and their wanting to look like the “heroic image” of blackened helmets, face shields and gear. But, what we can never forget is the growing epidemic of cancer in the fire service and our need to provide the essential persona and education to reduce this disease among our brother and sister firefighters.

I get sick to my stomach every time I read The Secret List by Chief Billy Goldfeder about a young firefighter who passes after his courageous battle with cancer. Left behind are a beautiful wife and very young family. To me, and I’m sure to many of you, that just should not be happening! It’s time we heed the message being sent to us and develop a plan to protect our new recruits.

What we are realizing through research by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), is that this one disease – cancer – claims more lives of firefighters than the real-life dangers they face through the job that they perform. This alone sounds an alarm in each of our stations of the need to embed cancer prevention education objectives in our daily skills and instruction.

I'm saddened to hear about my good friend, Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony Pagliaro of the Schuyler Volunteer Fire Department/Ambulance, who in his late 30s – with a beautiful wife and three young children – is battling cancer for the third time.

In no way should Firefighter Pagliaro or his loving family endure the overwhelming medical and travel bills that accompany his monthly trips from Central New York to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Not when he gives his untiring efforts protecting his community 24/7, 365!

This is just one firefighter that sticks in my mind from so many who have shared their stories with me knowing my personal fight with occupational cancer (non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma) believed to be caused by my 39 years as a volunteer firefighter.

In some states, New York being one, local governments and their compensation boards often are voicing their opinions against presumptive cancer laws for firefighters. But in New York State, only the career firefighters are covered and the volunteers are not. What these compensation boards do not realize is that volunteer firefighters in New York State save over $3.2 billion a year with their service!

They are fighting the same fires and using the same tactics and equipment as the career departments. When you speak of the tax dollars being saved, developing a plan that would cover volunteer firefighters from cancer would be in the best interest of communities covered by the volunteers. What the governments and compensation boards do not realize is that over the past three years, there has been more education and preventative measures being taught in fire training classes across the United States than ever before. FASNY is leading the charge so that “No One Fights Cancer Alone.”

So, you say, “Where do I start?” I’m sure you have read about all the studies being done in the field on cancer preventative measures and sometimes wonder, “Will all this work?” Providing a second hood or gear after a major fire so that a firefighter’s gear can be washed properly? Using gear washers to clean? Showering after a fire? Making sure the diesel exhaust systems inside the stations are working properly and being used correctly?

While these are questions that have surfaced not more than three years ago, they most definitely have some validity when speaking about ways in which our fire service leadership and elected officials can protect our firefighters.

Many people ask me why firefighters are more susceptible to cancer. What studies have proven is that our personal assets that make our lives comfortable in our homes produce toxic,
Hey, Firefighter …
Cancer is Real …
Believe Me!

By Past Chief Brian F. McQueen, FASNY Director

poisonous fumes when ignited. Researchers believe that the cancer rates are being driven up by chemicals that lace the smoke and soot inside burning buildings. Just look at the consumer goods you have in your home today. Most of them are manufactured using synthetic materials, and fires are burning hotter, faster and more toxic as a result.

The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) Firefighter Cancer Alliance has developed information that provides our fire service leaders with “boots-on-the-ground” information that can be shared in their departments. In fact, this Alliance is planning a national symposium on firefighter cancer to be held in September in Phoenix, Arizona. Organizations such as the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and FASNY have identified cancer as a major issue affecting volunteers today and have earmarked resources on their websites to be used in fire stations across the United States.

I applaud our career and volunteer department leaders who have prioritized the cancer epidemic and have built a foundation of safety and awareness for their firefighters. In Boston, Commissioner Finn has worked with his leadership staff to make sure that cancer prevention education is being taught in each of their recruit classes. Each of our departments can take this same message and develop it into training skills in any career or volunteer fire department. Knowing the cost of replacement and training of a new firefighter, providing training such as this can enhance the long-term goals of retaining well-trained, healthy firefighters.

Most recently, U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) and U.S. Congressman Chris Collins (R-NY) announced the introduction of the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act with 76 bipartisan original sponsors. This bill was originally founded in Barneveld, New York, after Congressman Richard Hanna attended a program on cancer in the fire service. The bill would create a national cancer registry for firefighters diagnosed with this deadly disease. The creation of this registry would enable researchers to study the relationship between firefighters’ exposure to dangerous fumes and harmful toxins and the increased risk for several major cancers. In the future, this information could also allow for better protective equipment and prevention techniques to be developed. The importance of lobbying in Washington to pass this bill is crucial to protecting those that protect you.

In closing, let me say that three years ago, after being told “you have cancer” by my oncologist, never would I have ever dreamed that my love of being a volunteer firefighter could possibly be killing me! Please listen to this message and build firefighter cancer education into your daily drills at your station. The time spent now will allow your team to live a healthier, safer life for themselves and their families.

Visit www.fasny.com/fightcancer now to view “The Cost of Cancer in the Fire Service.” Help FASNY create cancer awareness within the fire service and promote wellness by sharing this video.
**FASNY Convention Schedule Highlights**

**Wednesday, August 9**

Noon – 4:00 p.m.
Registration, Secretary’s Office and FASNY Store Open
Networking
Cotillion

6:00 p.m. (Cocktails), 7:00 p.m. (Dinner)
**FASNY Past Presidents Barbecue**
Courtyard (Weather Permitting)

**Thursday, August 10**

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Registration, Secretary’s Office and FASNY Store Open
Networking
Cotillion (Closed During the Memorial Service)

8:00 a.m.
Annual Memorial Service Followed by Opening Ceremonies of the 145th Annual FASNY Convention
Convention Center

1:00 p.m.
2% Tax Forum
Convention Center

4:00 p.m.
Third Annual Michael D. Whelan Walk in the Park
Onondaga Lake Park

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
**After-Walk Party**
Onondaga Lake Park

**Friday, August 11**

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Registration, Secretary’s Office and FASNY Store Open
Cotillion

7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Networking
Cotillion

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
**Ninth Annual Youth Day**
Syracuse Fire Training Facility

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
**Hands-On Training**
Belgium Cold Springs Fire Training Center

8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
**Eighth Annual Training Series**
Convention Center

8:00 a.m.
**FASNY Federal Credit Union Membership Meeting**
Ballroom Center

1:00 p.m.
**2% Tax Forum**
Convention Center

4:00 p.m.
**Third Annual Michael D. Whelan Walk in the Park**
Onondaga Lake Park

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
**After-Walk Party**
Onondaga Lake Park

8:00 a.m.
**Gerard J. Buckenmeyer FASNY Volunteer Scholarship Auction**
Convention Center

11:00 a.m. (Lunch), noon (Shotgun Start), 6:00 p.m. (Awards Dinner)
**Fourth Annual FASNY Fallen Firefighters Golf Tournament**
Drumlins Country Club

2:00 p.m.
**Ladies Tea**
Location TBA

6:00 p.m.
**Gerard J. Buckenmeyer FASNY Volunteer Scholarship Auction**
Convention Center

7:00 p.m.
**LAFASNY Installation**
Comfort Inn & Suites

**Saturday, August 12**

8:00 a.m. – Noon
Registration, Secretary’s Office and FASNY Store Open
Cotillion

9:00 a.m.
**President Kenneth Pienkowski Convenes the Final Session of the 145th Annual Convention**
Convention Center

11:00 a.m. – Noon
**FASNY Heroes Award Ceremony**
Convention Center

Noon
**Scheduled Adjournment of the 145th Annual Convention**
(In the event of a contested election, the meeting will adjourn after the polls are closed.)
Convention Center
Operational Excellence on Today’s Evolving Fireground
By Chief Christopher J. Naum

There is an immediate need for today's emerging and operating command and company officers to increase their foundation of knowledge and insights related to modern fire dynamics, building occupancy, building construction and fire protection engineering. This presentation teaches how to adjust and modify traditional and conventional strategic operating profiles using modern research-based tactics to safeguard companies, personnel and team compositions. This is an interactive and thought-provoking presentation that challenges conventional fire service paradigms and explores leading theories and fire service discussion points from across the American fire service with direct application to today’s career, volunteer and combination fire departments and personnel.

Volunteer Fire 2025
By Michael Dallessandro

This presentation reviews differences in society between today, when some volunteer fire departments struggle, and past years, when the volunteer fire service flourished in most communities. A fast-forward look to the future will discuss how a volunteer fire department may look in 2025 and beyond, barriers to our long-term success and outside-the-box options for survival such as combination, county-wide, live-in and paid on-call configurations.

Modern Firefighting … What Works for You?
By Chief John Salka and Chief Ed Buchanan with Moderator John S. D’Alessandro

Recent research from the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Safety Research Institute and National Institute of Standards and Technology shows modern fire behavior presents many new challenges. The presenters outline those challenges and lead discussion of many different viewpoints during this informative seminar. Topics discussed include using outside streams for fire attack; attacking fire from the unburned to the burned; how to handle ventilation of limited fires; keeping the wind at your back; considering flow paths; and controlling the door.

Modern House Fires: Critical Skills for the Engine Company
By Jerry Knapp of Rockland County Fire Training Center, Captain Chris Flatley of the FDNY, Past Chief Tim Pillsworth of Winona Lake Engine Co. No. 2, and Dave Walsh, Chair of the Fire Science Program at Dutchess Community College

This hands-on course teaches critical skills for effective fire attack in residential areas, including:

Target Flow – How to flow test a fire attack system (intake of engine to discharge of nozzle), things that impact flow, establishing target flow, the impact of quality and size of hose on flow, the effect of kinks on fire attack system flow, how to flow test all types of nozzles including automatic nozzles and demonstration of low flow nozzle streams

New Nozzle Techniques – New nozzle techniques based on UL research for exterior fires, basement fires, first-floor fires, second-floor fires and attic fires

Fire Attack Team – Hands-on review of critical skills for the following positions: engine officer, nozzleman, backup and door man

Nozzle Options – Solid bore, combination, automatic (low pressure and dial-able pressure), combination solid/comination and low-pressure combinations (50 and 75 psi) nozzle type advantages and disadvantages, demonstration of each and duties of the backup man and nozzle man will be reviewed and practiced to perfection

Full PPE, turnout gear and Chief’s training authorization form are required. There is no available PPE on site. Training consists of four stations with about two hours spent at each. Each station will have simulated fire attacks as time allows.

$65 FASNY members, $75 non-members. Fee includes eight-hour course, official T-shirt and lunch. Registration deadline: August 1.
NINTH ANNUAL YOUTH DAY AT THE 2017 FASNY CONVENTION
FOR EXPLORERS, JUNIORS AND RAMS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017
SYRACUSE FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING CENTER

Join fellow youth for a day of fire service activities and evolutions. Registration forms are available at www.fasny.com/youth

THIRD ANNUAL
Michael D. Whelan
WALK IN THE PARK for Cancer

4:00 p.m. Thursday, August 10, 2017 at Onondaga Lake Park
**HEROPLUS - The NATIONAL LOSAP**

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- Independent RIA Portfolio Management
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The HEROPLUS Program, offered by VFIS and Lincoln Financial Group is available in all 50 states.

**The Volunteer Firefighter**

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VFIS is neither a registered broker-dealer nor a member of FINRA.

CRN-1648741-112116
The calendar says spring is here, but the snow we still have on the ground makes it hard to confirm. Despite any poor weather, nothing has dampened the spirits of our members. They have enjoyed many activities for the month, including our St. Patrick’s Day celebration that included a traditional corn beef and cabbage dinner. They also took several trips out for breakfast and on each Friday, they went out for fish fries thanks to sponsors from LAFASNY, the Hudson Valley Ladies Auxiliary and the West Athens Fire Department.

Our members also do not go through a week without some type of party. I would like to thank the Hudson-Mohawk Volunteer Firefighter’s Association, J.W. Edmonds Hose Co., Sodack Landing and Stuyvesant Fire Departments, Red Knights Motorcycle Club, Fuller Road Fire Department and our Board of Trustees, all of which sponsored a Bingo Party. Our members enjoyed the extra cash they won, the delicious food they received and, most of all, the camaraderie they shared with fellow firefighters.
Our Home is diligently preparing for our 125th Anniversary Celebration. One of the fun tasks associated with the celebration is looking at old photographs from the Home’s rich history. Many of the photographs show the working farm we once had. Even though there were many pictures of animals, our Home has not encountered an animal like Bacon Bits in some time.

Bacon Bits is a pot belly therapy pig that visits nursing homes. He has been featured on the local news and has his own Facebook page. You could hear laughter all throughout the building as the members enjoyed his visit.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of members Richard T. Davies on March 8 and J. Edward Burguiere on March 30. Mr. Davies was 74 years old and belonged to the Holtsville Fire Department and Mr. Burguiere was 84 years old and was a member of the Monitor Hose Co. No. 4 in Ossining. This leaves our census at 85 members as of April 6.

We are blessed with a wonderful staff at the Home. One great staff member that we had here was Bernetta Samuels. Bernetta was a Certified Nursing Assistant and past recipient of the Association of Nursing Administrators Certified Nursing Assistant of the Year Award. She decided to retire this past month after 32 years of service and she will be greatly missed by our members. A retirement luncheon was held for her on March 8 in honor of her many years of dedicated service.

By the time this magazine issue comes out, we will be nearing our 125th Anniversary Celebration. Planning has taken place for over a year and it will be exciting to see the efforts of many finally come to fruition. Please check out our website at www.firemenshome.com for the highlights. I look forward to seeing everyone at our celebration!

FASNY FIREMEN’S HOME RESIDENTS’ BIRTHDAYS

The following residents of the Firemen’s Home celebrate their birthdays in the months of May and June. Please feel free to send cards or happy birthday wishes. These brighten their day and always put a smile on their faces.

May

1 Frank H. Vanschaack, Greene, D.M. Hamilton Steamer Co. No. 2
2 Elizabeth R. Stacey, Greene, Athens Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary
5 Robert Fonck, Nassau, Manhasset Lakeville Fire Department
9 Gordon L. Hackney, Suffolk, Center Moriches Fire Department
14 Allen F. Olsen, Sr., Suffolk, St. James Fire Department
17 Wilfred D. Macgiffert, Columbia, Greenport Pumper Co. No. 1
30 William F. Battista, Nassau, Garden City Fire Department

June

4 June R. Scofield, Columbia, Churchtown Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary
6 Joan A. Sawicky, Columbia, Spouse
7 Gary Delaurentis, Columbia, Clermont Fire Co.
8 Ronald C. Ketchum, Otsego, Eagle Fire Engine & Hose Co. No. 1, Gilbertsville
13 Rudolph J. Skoda, Columbia, A. B. Shaw Fire Co., Claverack
19 Shirley M. Wase, Greene, Catskill Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary
20 John D. Weissgarber, Westchester, Katonah Fire Department
25 Robert E. Walsh, Columbia, Washington Hose Co. No. 3, Hudson
28 George F. Lockwood, Greene, Hunter Fire Co. No. 1
30 Robert W. Kargoll, Nassau, Bellmore Fire Department Hose Co. No. 1
Robert Hicks, or “Robbie” as he likes to be called, has an infectious smile that can instantly light up a room. As the longest member residing at the FASNY Firemen’s Home, it only seems fitting that he will be honored as the Resident Grand Marshal to ride at the head of the Hudson Inspection Day Parade scheduled for May 20. The parade is one of many events commemorating the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Home. Robbie was thrilled to accept this invitation with one stipulation: “I think I would like to walk with the Trustees, not ride, if I can!”

Robbie served for 18 years as a volunteer with the Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Co. No. 3 and still carries his badge today. He recalls several difficult fires and accidents as well as losing three fellow firefighters over the years. He also worked for the town’s maintenance department for 25 years until he was struck by a car while doing road work. Having suffered extensive injuries, it wasn’t long after the terrible accident that he came to reside at the Firemen’s Home at age 55.

To Robbie, the Home is “a very special place” and the staff is like his family – especially Social Services Director Sophia Kamenovsky, who he calls “Sophie.” He vividly recalls meeting her on the first day he came to the Home. “On February 20, 1999, at 10:00 a.m., I came to Sophie’s office … and she has stuck with me since!” Ms. Kamenovsky is currently sewing his fire service badges on a new jacket that he will wear proudly in the parade on May 20.
When fire departments start looking at creating a fire prevention presentation or program, they must first determine what message they want to deliver to the public. Your audience will be your guide. Use what you know from experience, whether it be from the fires you respond to or discoveries you’ve made in your own surroundings: home, work and recreation.

There are a number of influential statistics that you should share with the public.

For example, there are more than 360,000 house fires annually, which cause approximately 2,570 deaths and over 13,000 injuries. Look at the most common causes of these fires. Almost 80 percent of the deaths are caused by fires that begin within the home: in the kitchen, living room and bedrooms.

The leading cause of kitchen fires is cooking equipment and close to half of all house fires start in the kitchen. Take this subject and roll with it! You can stress the importance of not leaving the kitchen when you are cooking, keeping those pan handles turned away from the front of the stove, leaving flammable items near the stove and the danger of wearing loose clothing that could easily ignite.

The next leading cause of interior house fires is from heating equipment: central heating units, portable heaters, fireplaces and chimneys. Explain the importance of maintenance for all of these items. Make sure fireplaces and chimneys have been cleaned out and freed from the buildup of creosote. Portable heaters should be safely placed away from flammable items.

Finally, 7 percent of home fires have occurred in a bedroom. This is a great opportunity to stress how important it is to have an escape plan … and to practice it! Teach the practice of rolling out of bed to keep low and how to check the bedroom door to tell whether or not it is safe to open it. Are there escape ladders for those second-floor windows? Give your audience things to think about.

There are other areas of the home that can be discussed, such as laundry areas. Almost everyone has most likely heard of dryer fires. Use this to remind them to clean lint traps after each load of laundry to prevent a buildup that could ignite. What dangerous chemicals are being stored in your basement or garage? Are there any fire extinguishers placed around these areas?

There are now requirements to have 10-year smoke alarms in homes. This is a great opportunity to establish a community-wide effort with local organizations to install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms as a public service for fire prevention.

The bottom line is that fire prevention education is not just about visiting your local school during Fire Prevention Week each year.

So, roll up your sleeves and apply what you already know as a firefighter to get fire prevention messages out to your community. For more inspiration, check out www.preventfiresny.com and browse the many resources available.

By John Kolb, FASNY Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee
The Museum has been very busy with its Super Saturday programs. These events use innovative programming to educate and inspire and have become extremely popular. The most recent program, “Princesses and Protectors,” was specifically created to inspire little girls to consider becoming firefighters.

The program began with a princess tea party. The regal Queen Phoenix was the party’s special mistress of ceremonies for the morning. The “guest list” included local female firefighters and many young ladies, most of whom were dressed in their finest princess attire. The firefighters and the girls enjoyed tea and crumpets (apple juice and donut holes), Queen Phoenix and the firefighters addressed the crowd, and the firefighters explained to the children why they like firefighting and how they thought the experience added to their lives. The girls then went through the Junior Firefighter Challenge with the firefighters. In the meantime, the girls who were waiting talked with the firefighters at their tables, and worked on a tiara craft project. The firefighters then put on their turnout gear and showed the girls the different parts of the gear and posed for pictures. This program was fully booked again this year and has become a Museum tradition!

I would like to thank all of the awesome female firefighters who came out to help with the program and taught the girls that they can be feminine and fierce and, yes, they can be firefighters! Thank you to Chief Melissa Eigenbrodt, Red Rock Fire Department; Captain Maryann Laspa, Chatham Fire Department; Lieutenant Courtney Haner, Chatham FD; Junior Firefighter Kendall Gallant, Greenport.

The wonderful female firefighters that attended the Princess and Protectors event are, front row, from left: Kendall Gallant, Melissa Eigenbrodt with Diesel and Jessica Vermilyea. Pictured back row, from left, are: Jessica Hayes, Maryann Laspa, Courtney Haner, and Karen Schrader.
Fire Department; Firefighter Jessica Vermilyea, Athens Fire Department; Firefighter Karen Schrader, Athens FD; and Firefighter Jessica Hayes, Greenport FD.

Another recent Super Saturday program was "Weird Science with Professor Sparks." This program has been a favorite for both special events and school groups. During the presentation for this Super Saturday program, Professor Sparks, who was aptly played by Museum Educator Ashley Stever, explained the science of fire through a series of interactive demonstrations. These included the fire triangle, sorting heat and fuel sources and chemical reactions. She finished the program with all of the children making "slime" through the process of a chemical reaction. The children took their "slime" home to continue to marvel at the process ... and I am sure a few kids made use of their "slime" in other ways that their siblings and parents may or may not have appreciated.

Other recent Super Saturday programs included the Airborne Jugglers and Firefighter Fran with Firestar. Super Saturday programs will continue throughout the spring and summer with both new programs and old favorites.

Innovative programs like these are why the Museum is considered the leader in fire safety and prevention programs. The Museum is very fortunate to be

Continued on next page.
able to continue to present these Super Saturday programs due to a generous grant from the Hudson River Bank and Trust Co. Foundation. The Foundation provides funding to support charitable causes and community development in Columbia County. On behalf of myself, the Museum staff and the Museum's Board of Directors, I would like to thank the Hudson River Bank and Trust Co. Foundation for their ongoing support of the Museum's Super Saturday programs. As mentioned, Super Saturday programs will continue throughout the remainder of the year, so check the Museum's website often for announcements of upcoming programs. For more information on any of the Super Saturday programs at the Museum, visit www.fasnyfiremuseum.com or call us at (518) 822-1875, x10.

The Museum will also be hosting a myriad of school tours in the next couple of months. These programs will not only educate children concerning the history of the fire service, but will also teach all of the key fire safety and prevention lessons that are so important to learn at a young age. The Museum was very fortunate to receive corporate support that will make many of these field trips possible. Stewart's Shops awarded the Museum a donation via its Holiday Match program. Holiday Match is a program that started over 25 years ago to specifically benefit organizations/programs for kids under the age of 18 in the areas of social services, health, education, recreation and the arts. The Stewart's Shops 2016 Holiday Match program set a record for the third consecutive season, raising more than $1.85 million for local children's organizations. From Thanksgiving through Christmas, Stewart's customers donated more than $926,000 to the program, a $56,000 increase over last season. Stewart's matches each donation. There are no administrative costs and 100 percent of the funds benefit local, not for profit children's organizations. On behalf of myself and the Museum Board and staff, I would like to thank those who donated to this program and, of course, Stewart's Shops for their continuing support of this arts program really cements our belief that this program is vital to the community and has immense value to the children who live here.

This program also won a Greater Hudson Heritage Network Award for Excellence in 2015. This honor not only recognized the Summer Arts Program for its innovative techniques in education, but also recognized that this program helps children build a bridge from the arts to further their self-esteem. The program also includes visits from guest artists in each medium: a key component of the experience. These artists share their techniques in the medium, as well as their creative journey, with the children. They then help them in the process of creating an art piece of their own in that medium. From gold leafing to photography to sculpture and more, the program offers a wide variety of media and a chance for children to meet actual working artists while participating in a challenging and rewarding arts program.

On behalf of myself and the Museum Board and staff, I would like to thank NYSCA for their support of the Museum. As a statewide grant program across many disciplines, NYSCA grants are extremely competitive. So, NYSCA's continued support of this arts program really cements our belief that this program is vital to the community and has immense value to the children who live here.

This program also won a Greater Hudson Heritage Network Award for Excellence in 2015. This honor not only recognized the Summer Arts Program for its innovative techniques in education, but also recognized that this program helps children build a bridge from the arts to further their self-esteem. The New York State Council on the Arts is dedicated to preserving and expanding the rich and diverse cultural resources that are and will become the heritage of New York's citizens. NYSCA strives to achieve its mission through its core grant-making activity and by convening field leaders, providing information and advisory support and working with partners on special initiatives to achieve mutual goals. To learn more about NYSCA, visit www.nysca.org

It really is all about education here at the Museum. Whether it is Super Saturday programs, school field trips, or the Summer Arts Program, it's all a part of the education equation. We really believe when the equation is added up, the real winners are the children who visit the Museum. Visiting children learn about the history of the fire service, and they learn fire safety and prevention lessons that will keep them safe, and possibly even save their lives one day, which we think is truly priceless. We hope that you will visit the Museum this summer and participate in some of these award-winning and innovative programs.
Modern Firefighting: What Works for You

Past President of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors Chief Eddie Buchanan and retired FDNY Battalion Chief, author and veteran presenter John J. Salka, Jr. present this informative seminar.

This program will be moderated by FASNY Secretary John S. D’Alessandro with discussion of some of the issues that have been raised by NIST/UL fire research.

**Topics include:**
- Using outside streams for fire attack
- Attacking fire from the unburned to the burned
- How to handle ventilation of limited fires
- Keeping the wind at your back
- Considering flow paths
- Controlling the door

Chiefs Salka and Buchanan will discuss and explain their perspectives on these emerging issues and lead a discussion on the many viewpoints.

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<td>FASNY Convention, Liverpool</td>
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The Online OSHA Refresher Course Is Back!

This course is designed to assist you in meeting the requirements for annual safety-related training in New York State.

The instructions for the course should be printed by every member who wants to take this course through VFIS University.

**The OSHA course is free to FASNY members only.**

Get the form and information at www.fasny.com

Interested in Hosting a FASNY Course?

The form is located on our website, www.fasny.com, under the “Training” tab. Please complete the form in its entirety and send it to training@fasny.com for review.
I was in sitting at my desk in my undershirt sweating over a monthly report one warm, soggy night. It was just past midnight. The summer shower had stopped, and I was listening to the cars outside swooshing past Headquarters Station on the wet asphalt. Engine 4 and Rescue 1 were out on some kind of police call assist at a Kentucky Fried Chicken on South Avenue. They seemed to be taking a long time, and I was beginning to get curious. I'd had about enough of the paperwork anyway, so I made an announcement over the PA for Tommy Kane to meet me in the Car 2 bay. Tom had just pulled our car through the doors and across the ramp when we heard Lieutenant John Coppola of the rescue company on the radio.

"Rescue 1 to Central, request Car 2 respond to this location."

Now I was really curious.

"Car 2 receives," I said Central a dispatch. "Responding 1429 South Avenue." When we pulled up in the Kentucky Fried Chicken parking lot, I hopped out and walked toward the building. Our apparatus were parked in the lot. So were a district police car and a patrol supervisor's car. We had men on the one-story roof, three of whom were standing there looking down into a two-square-foot scuttle shaft. Jan Brothers, the Engine 4 Lieutenant, saw me coming.

"We gotta burglar stuck in the greasy vertical shaft, Chief," he yelled down, "and we can't pull him out. We've been tryin' to push him down, but he won't budge, and he's getting a little belligerent."

"Do you have anybody inside?"

"Yes sir. Lieutenant Coppola's inside, but I can't make him out on this damn radio." Jan Brothers, a good-looking kid with a ready smile, sounded uncharacteristically upset.

"All right," I said. "Take a blow, and don't let anybody do anything until I check inside, understand?"

"Yes sir, Chief."

I found Rescue 1 in the kitchen. The slim, athletically rangy John Coppola was looking up at the ceiling and slapping his radio with a worried look on his dark, chiseled face. A pair of legs was sticking through the bottom of some open ductwork over a large cooking range. The legs wore black sweat pants and were straddling a length of sprinkler piping. The shaft they were dangling from was considerably reduced in size as it tapered down to little more than a slit just about big enough to fit the victim's thin legs, but not his hips.

"Chief, you've got to get them idiots in staff to do something about these low-band radios," John Coppola sounded even more annoyed than Brothers. "We've been trying to tell the guys on the roof that the duct he is stuck in doesn't go anywhere, and that he's sitting on a two-inch pipe, which is killing him. They were trying to push him through, and the poor guy started yelling in agony and swearing at everybody. He's wedged in good now. If they don't stop pushing on him, he's gonna turn into a soprano."

Sometimes you pull up on a weird scene, and everybody seems to be baying at the moon.

"Sometimes you pull up on a weird scene, and everybody seems to be baying at the moon."

"It's OK, Loo," I said. "They stopped pushing. Just see if you can relieve some of the pressure on his – you know, where he's straddling the pipe. Prop him up somehow by setting up a ladder or something for him to stand on."

"You got it, Chief."

I walked out the rear door, and was about to climb the metal ladder to the roof when Tony Cellantano, the police sergeant, came over. After we had exchanged pleasantries, he told me what had happened:

"We were over on Leland Avenue when we heard this eerie sound, kinda like a ghost wailing, ya know, but very faint. All of a sudden, it gets real quiet, and I hear this far off voice crying 'Heeelp. So, I start cruisin' and the cries get louder, and we narrow it down to here."

"The guy is Teddy Gibson, a real bad actor who we've had lots of trouble with in the past. He must have thought the shaft would get him in, but he got stuck. He may not be a rocket scientist, but believe me, the guy is dangerous."

I climbed the ladder to the roof and had to step over ropes and hooks and assorted tools before I joined the men in looking down the black scuttle hole. At first I couldn't see anything, but as my eyes grew accustomed to the dark, I made out two eyes
“At first I couldn’t see anything, but as my eyes grew accustomed to the dark, I made out two eyes staring back at me almost three feet down.”

staring back at me almost three feet down.

“He’s dressed all in black,” the young Lieutenant said, “and he’s all greased up from the shaft so we can’t get a good enough grip on him. We tried just about everything we can think of, Chief, but he won’t budge. We’re gonna hafta break the whole shaft out.”

I motioned Brothers aside. “Don’t go anywhere, Teddy,” he instructed the cat burglar. “We’ll be right back.” The kid was losing it.

“Before we break up this guy’s building,” I told him, “let’s you and I try something scientific.”

“Scientific?”

“Yeah.”

Our “scientific” approach was to reach down as far as we could until we grabbed under his arms and then lifted with all our strength. It took a few tries in order for us to get a grip. The guy was covered in grease. But, he was now able to help by pushing with his legs against the ladder that Rescue 1 had placed under him.

Suddenly he moved a bit. We lost our grip and had to grab him again, this time reaching down even lower. We bent so far over that most of our upper bodies were in the shaft, and the other firefighters had to hold us to keep us from falling in. Flushed with excitement over the victim’s slight movement, we now pulled as if our lives depended on it. He moved again. We kept pulling. He kept moving. And suddenly he emerged from the shaft greased from head to foot. He howled with pain as the blood began returning to his legs. Two firefighters took him from us and laid him gently on the roof.

It was at this point that I realized that my white shirt would now have to be converted into several rags.

Then the cops were there.

“Okay, John,” I said, still out of breath. “But, back away while he recovers.”

“Command to Central,” I puffed into my portable radio. “Extrication has been completed. Engine 4 and Car 2 are 10-1 [available for service]. Rescue 1 will remain on scene.”

It was now a police operation. As the firefighters began picking up their equipment, the cops took over, cuffed Teddy and, eventually, led him down the metal ladder. As he was descending, a female police photographer who’d been called to the scene snapped a picture. Teddy must have thought she was a press photographer, because he turned to her and jutted his jaw out defiantly.

“Tell ’em I’m a cat burglar, lady,” he said. “I didn’t come here for no greasy chicken.”

Apparently, Teddy was beginning to feel like his old self.

“What did you come here for, Teddy?” asked Tony Cellantano.

“The mashed potatoes?” another cop asked.

“The coleslaw?” asked a firefighter.

“The biscuits?” somebody else asked. And so it went. The relief that the situation had turned out OK was making them feel pretty chipper, and they continued to carry on as if they were breaking in a nightclub act.

I had to smile, myself. Actually, you wouldn’t think that there’d been any money left in the till. For the first time, I wondered why the hell Teddy Gibson had dressed up in his black cat burglar sweat suit and got himself stuck in a Kentucky Fried Chicken grease duct. Maybe he was only practicing. I never did find out.

Charles Angione, former Operations Chief for the City of Plainfield (New Jersey) Fire Department, is the author of Days and Nights of Fire. The decorated 25-year line veteran is a National Fire Academy alumnus and a longtime Incident Commander of note. Send your comments or requests for his book to charlesangione@frontier.com (The book is also available for purchase online at www.ebay.com) or write the author at P.O. Box 37, Pen Argyl, PA 18072.
Ever since we started to pay attention to the fire dynamic research over a decade ago, there has been a battle brewing between those who think firefighting should be done from the inside versus the outside. Thousands of website clicks, Facebook page likes and retweets are generated daily over this debate. Social media would have you believe that you have to pick one side or the other – the “hit it hard from the yard,” or the “push down the hot hallway” team.

My personal opinion is that you would be short-sighted to pick either one as an absolute. What the research has taught me is the fastest water often wins, from wherever you can get it. This concept is very similar to what I first learned about firefighting as a kid in the very early ‘80s. Get water on the fire – now! When you make the fire go away, everything on the fireground improves.

Over the last few months, I’ve had the honor to present around the state with John Salka, retired Battalion Chief from the FDNY, as part of FASNY’s Training and Education series. Our mission has been to discuss the different viewpoints on the research and how fire departments can interpret the information. One thing in our discussions has remained consistent: The context and situation at hand dictate which tactic may be best at a moment in time.

Chief Salka and I typically discuss the wide number of variables that are unknown at most our fires. We don’t always know where the fire is, what fuels are involved, and the status of potential victims. Add to that variable staffing levels, extended response times and other “wild cards” and you have a dynamic, complicated mess.

So, how do you choose the right tactic for any particular fire? Some seem to be on a search for the “magic tactic” that will fit every situation. You hear things like, “We always attack from the inside,” or “Always attack from the outside first.” Unfortunately, neither of these tactics are always the best choice. For example, even if you could arrange for two identical fires, different staffing levels could cause you to make different tactical choices.

As firefighters, we realize that we have to master a very complex craft that is based on many variables. We have to be able to make split-second decisions that are based on our mission priorities. I doubt you will hear military units say they always use the front door. They will likely say something like, “It depends on the location of the enemy,” plus a bunch of other variables. Sure, there are great tactical advantages to the front door for firefighting, but there are situations that could cause that to not be the best choice at that moment.

The first arriving officer must develop the ability to recognize the type of construction they are working with, any potential rescues that may exist and the fire conditions present during their initial size-up. They have to observe what the pressure in the building is saying about the interior conditions. These conditions could be obvious via a clear flow path visible from the exterior. Or it could be more ambiguous with a fire that has recently gone vent-limited. The conditions on arrival will set the pace and priority for particular tactics.

Rescue has been a constant concern since the research began. Make no mistake: Rescue of building occupants was, is, and always will be the fire department’s highest priority. The fire department is technically always in rescue mode! There is no off-switch or check box where we can no longer consider rescue. You never know when you might encounter an occupant, but hopefully not after the secondary search!

Staffing and conditions also play a major role in how you may attempt a rescue. Optimally, enough resources will arrive on scene in a sequence that allows multiple tasks to occur simultaneously. Water can be applied as the building is vented and rescue efforts
get underway. This becomes more complicated when sufficient resources are not available in time to support simultaneous operations. First arriving officers are often forced to make hard choices that are sometimes unfair for the occupants and firefighters on scene. Yet, the situation is what it is, and that first fire officer will have to do the best they can with what they have at that moment.

The officer, in essence, has to decide whether it is better to remove the victim from the threat or the threat from the victim with the resources they have at that moment. Obviously, doing both at the same time is best, but that may not be an option with limited staffing. In limited staffing situations, it is not uncommon to see search operations initiated through a vent-enter-search (or now vent-enter-isolate-search) method when conducted ahead of the initial water. This would likely be the call if a truck company arrived ahead of the engine company. This stems from understanding that opening a vent-limited fire prior to water application can lead to significantly worse conditions for anyone inside. Should the engine arrive solo for more than a few minutes, the engine may attempt to search from the line as they advance inside. The engine may also have elected to cool from exterior position if that got water on or near the fire faster.

As practitioners of our craft, firefighters must be able to recognize the situation at hand, the physics behind it all, and call on the best technique to address that particular problem. This is a complex task, but it is also the essence of what we do. Rather than seeking a magic bullet to solve all your problems, master all of the tactical options so that you can call on them and execute the effectively when they are needed. Does that make your job as a firefighter more complicated? Probably so. But, that's our mission.

I think of it as a return to the thinking of the pre-automatic nozzle and cross lay days. We used to carry a variety of nozzles on the rig. We had fog nozzles, smooth bore nozzles, distributor nozzles, piercing nozzles, etc. We would choose the best nozzle for the situation at hand. With modern fire dynamics research, we compounded that decision-making to add the “why” to what we are doing and when we choose to do it. Context matters a great deal in choosing the proper tactics. So, rather than joining the “inside” or “outside” team, learn to play both sides! It's the only way to consistently win for both the potential victims and the firefighters on-scene.

“The conditions on arrival will set the pace and priority for particular tactics.”

Eddie Buchanan began his fire service career in 1982 and is an Assistant Chief with Hanover Fire & EMS in Richmond, Virginia. He is a Past President of the International Society of Fire Service Instructors and is the 2015 recipient of the George D. Post Instructor of the Year Award from the ISFSI. He serves on the Executive Advisory Board of Fire Engineering Magazine and FDIC and is author of the Volunteer Training Officer's Handbook from Pennwell Publishing. He serves on the NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Service Training and the newly formed NFPA 1700 Committee. He is a past board member of the Volunteer/Combination Officer’s Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and serves on a variety of advisory boards and committees for the fire service industry. Chief Buchanan is known for the creation of the SLICE-RS concept that is part of the ISFSI Principles of Modern Fire Attack Program.

Eddie Buchanan will join Chief John Salka and Association Secretary John S. D’Alessandro for “MODERN FIREFIGHTING ... WHAT WORKS FOR YOU” during the Eighth Annual Training Series at the FASNY Convention August 9-12 in Syracuse. Visit www.fasny.com/convention to learn more or register.
By Chris Daly

In our last article, we discussed how a vehicle “burns off” kinetic energy and comes to a stop. During that discussion, we mentioned that when the tires on a vehicle lock up, the tires will slide across the road surface and create tremendous amounts of heat. This process causes the vehicle to lose all steering control and skid in a relatively straight line until it comes to a stop or strikes another object. I’m sure many of you asked, “What about ABS brakes?” In this article, we will discuss the issues associated with ABS brakes.

Years ago, vehicle designers recognized that when a vehicle enters a skid, all steering control is lost. In an effort to solve this problem, anti-lock brake systems (ABS) were born. Anti-lock brakes allow a vehicle to maintain steering control, even when the brakes are applied forcefully. The first step in an ABS training program should be for fire departments to readily identify which vehicles are equipped with ABS and which are not. In departments with mixed fleets of apparatus, the type of braking system should be clearly marked in plain view of the driver. The reason for this is that the methods used to stop an ABS equipped vehicle are vastly different from the methods used to stop a non-ABS vehicle.

In the days before ABS, EVOC classes taught us how to “pump the brakes” during panic stops. Drivers were taught to forcefully apply the brakes until they felt the wheels about to lock. Drivers were then told to ease off the brake pedal and manually pump the brakes with their foot, in an attempt to provide maximum stopping power, while not locking the wheels and causing the vehicle to skid. While this idea sounds good in theory, it isn’t that easy in practice. For this reason, the job of pumping the brakes was given to a computer. In an ABS equipped vehicle, sensors on the wheels detect when a wheel is about to lock. Once these sensors detect impending lock-up, the computer then “pumps” the brakes for us, preventing the tires from skidding.

When ABS first gained popularity in everyday automobiles, I would often be called to investigate accidents that involved elderly drivers. These drivers had been driving for 40 or 50 years with traditional, non-ABS equipped vehicles. I would often ask these drivers what had caused the crash to occur and I always seemed to get the same answer: “Officer, the other vehicle pulled out in front of me and I slammed on my brakes. Then the brakes stopped working.” Upon further investigation, I would ask what made this person think that their brakes stopped working. The answer was always the same: “As I put my foot down on the pedal the brake pedal started thumping.”

In reality, the brakes were working fine. The problem was that the ABS was engaging and these drivers had never had any experience with this type of situation. Instead of leaving their foot down and steering around the hazard, they took their foot off the brake and ended up crashing into the other vehicle. It is for this reason that we must train fire apparatus operators what it feels like when the ABS kicks in. A recommended training practice is to take a vehicle out to an empty parking lot and speed up to about 15 to 20 mph. Instruct the driver to slam on the brakes, leaving their foot down for the entire stopping distance. As the ABS engages, the driver will feel the pedal start to “thump” underneath their foot. While some may argue that this type of training may cause undue wear and tear on the vehicle, I ask you this: Where would you like your driver to first encounter what it feels like for the ABS to engage? In an empty parking lot at 15 mph under relatively controlled conditions? Or on a rain-slicked roadway at 60 mph as the driver attempts to evade a hazard in the roadway? It’s much cheaper to send the vehicle out to have the tires and brakes checked after ABS training, then to have a driver experience the ABS engaging for the first time in an emergency situation and not know what to do.

During ABS training, drivers should be taught the idea of stomp, stay and steer. This means that when faced with an emergency stopping situation, the driver should stomp down on the brake pedal, stay on the brake pedal (not pump the brake pedal) and then steer around whatever hazard may be in the roadway. During this emergency stopping process, the driver must realize that the brake pedal may begin to “thump” against their foot.

This is OK. It means the ABS is working. Keep your foot down and do what you need to do to try and avoid the accident. Bear in mind, however, that in an unstable, top-heavy fire truck, sudden steering maneuvers can send the vehicle into a rollover situation. So, don’t put yourself in an “out of the frying pan, into the fire” situation. Rolling the truck to avoid a squirrel is probably not a good idea …

Chris Daly is a 23-year veteran of the fire service and a full-time police officer who specializes in the reconstruction of serious vehicle crashes and emergency vehicle crashes. He developed the “Drive to Survive” training program (www.drivetosurvive.org) and lectures nationally on the prevention of emergency vehicle crashes. Daly has been a contributing author to Fire Engineering magazine, the Pennsylvania Fireman and firerescue1.com. He has a master’s degree in safety from Johns Hopkins University. Chris can be contacted with any questions regarding his “Drive to Survive” seminar or assisting with crash reconstructions at station56@aol.com
My name is Chris Allen, also known as “Beef.” I am from Long Island. I became a Setauket firefighter when I was 18 years old and just out of high school because a current member said I should check it out. She told me that it's a lot of fun, you get to break stuff or put fires out, and make friends and connections.

I was the type of guy who can stay up until 4:00 a.m. playing with my car stereo or playing video games. I wanted a career and figured this would look good on a resume. It definitely helped me get the jobs I applied for in the future. I was always busy with events there, so it kept me out of trouble. And I made some lifetime friends in the process. There is nothing like trusting your life in your friends’ hands.

I always enjoyed the adrenaline rush of going on a call. – Chris Allen, Terryville Fire Department

When I became complacent after 13 years or so, I took a short break from the fire service. I then missed it a lot and decided I would join my neighboring department in Terryville because my kids were now in that district and if I was going to do it again, I would be involved in my family’s community. I found it extremely refreshing to start new with different ways of thinking and meeting new people: different apparatus, different assignments. I was always an engine guy and avoided truck work. Now I enjoy truck work and understand it better.

I’ve been in Terryville for a little under a year. I have already seen my old Setauket buddies at one of our fires. Most guys say, “Why do you want to be a probie all over again?” I think I just needed a new challenge.

Can you recall a time that you were touched because you were a part of the volunteer fire service? If you or someone you know has a positive story to share, such as the one written here, we want to hear from you. Please submit your story of how being in the volunteer fire service has impacted your life in a positive way and you might see your article published in The Volunteer Firefighter. Please submit your article to fire@abcideabased.com. Don't forget to tell us who you are and what volunteer fire department you belong to. Please keep your story to approximately 650 words.
The volunteer fire service in Nassau County and, more recently, Suffolk County on Long Island have recognized those volunteers who have served in the military by issuing them a “Veteran” pin to be worn on their class A uniforms.

Over two years ago, this writer, a Vietnam-era veteran and a Co-Chairman of Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior, approached and appeared before the Nassau County Fire Commission with the idea of a Veteran pin for all volunteer firefighters who are veterans. The Commission immediately gave its full support. An example of the pin was then drawn up and provided to them, and approved.

Each commissioner was then tasked to go back to the departments in their battalion to provide information on their veterans who had been honorably discharged or who are presently serving in the armed services.

Next, funding had to be found. After some delays, funds were provided by Nassau County after the administration learned of the idea and also fully supported the honor. A total of 1,200 Veteran pins were ordered for Nassau firefighters who are veterans.

In July 2015, Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano, with members of the Nassau County Fire Commission and Ex-Commissioner and Ex-Chief Ralph Esposito (who is the Director of Nassau County Veterans Services) presented this writer with the first Veteran pin as the others were distributed to veterans in the 71 Nassau fire departments.

“The pin is to be worn to symbolize the heroic and noble acts of our volunteers in the armed forces.”

At the time of the presentation, then-Nassau County Fire Commission Chairman James Mezey of the Carle Place Fire Department said, “This new Veteran pin was a way to recognize veterans for their service to our country and a way they could proudly display their service time. Placed on their class A uniform, it allows others to see that our veterans still take part in helping the citizens of their hometown like they helped keep our country free.”

The Nassau Fire Commission recommended that the Veteran pin stand alone and not be worn on the same side as the firefighter’s badge and fire award ribbons. It is worn on the firefighter’s right side, parallel with the top of the badge on the left side and one inch above a nameplate if that department has name tags.

Soon after, a Newsday newspaper article appeared about the issuance of these new Veteran pins to Nassau’s firefighters. The pin manufacturer was called by a representative of the Suffolk County Legislature. They too wanted to honor their firefighters and emergency medical volunteers who are veterans with the same pin.

Suffolk County Legislator Kate Browning, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, sponsored a bill that was unanimously approved by the Legislature in October 2015. It authorized the issue and use of the Veteran pin in Suffolk County.

“I was proud to create a veteran’s program in Suffolk County for our emergency service volunteers,” said Legislator Browning. “These extraordinary individuals have served our country and our local community. They have sacrificed so much here at home and abroad to protect our freedoms, and to
keep us safe during emergencies. They are a shining example of what service is all about and recognizing this is the least we can do."

Seventeen Suffolk legislators donated funds to cover the cost of the pins.

We, as veterans, were proud to serve our country and we are proud to serve our residents through fire departments and emergency service organizations. We now proudly wear the Veteran pin on Long Island.

If other counties or fire commissions in the state of New York are interested in issuing a Veteran pin to their firefighters and emergency personnel, they should go to the website www.victorytorch.com for information.

Maybe every firefighter and emergency services member in the state of New York who is a veteran will soon wear the pin!

Steve Grogan is a 49-year member of Tally-Ho Engine Co. No. 3 of the Lynbrook Fire Department on Long Island. He is an Ex-Captain and has been the department’s Public Information Officer, Writer and Spokesman for 30 years. He is Vice Chairman of Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior and Co-Founder of Nassau County Firefighters Emerald Society. He holds a master’s degree from CW Post College and is a Vietnam-era veteran who served on active duty for five years with U.S. Army Intelligence. He is a former elected Lynbrook Village Trustee and a retired federal agent.

Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano (fourth from left) stands with Steve Grogan (center) after the presentation of the first Veteran pin in 2015. Also at the ceremony were, from left: Fire Marshal Scott Tusa; Commissioner John Hennig, Fourth Battalion, Rockville Centre Fire Department; Commission Chairman James Mezey, Ninth Battalion, Carle Place Fire Department; Ex-Commissioner and Elmont Ex-Chief Ralph Esposito, Nassau County Director of Veteran Services; Commissioner James Neubert, Eighth Battalion, Great Neck Alert Fire Department; then-Commission Vice-Chairman Denis Collins, Second Battalion, Point Lookout Fire Department; and Commissioner Tony Pluto, Seventh Battalion, Hempstead Fire Department. Photo courtesy of Nassau County.
With all the snow we just received, and continue to get, spring and summer seem so far away. But, in all reality, spring is just around the corner. I hope everyone fared the winter well.

I'm writing a little on water safety. What does it mean to be water safe? Splashing, wading and paddling – it must mean a great day in the water. Playing at the beach, at a water park, by a lake or in a pool can be a real treat on a hot day. Swimming is a lot of fun, but drowning is a real danger. Even kids who know how to swim can drown, so let's find out how to stay safe in the water.

Here are some safety rules for swimming: always swim with a buddy; swim only in areas that have a lifeguard; stay out of the water when you are very tired, very cold or overheated; follow all swimming rules posted at the swimming area; and obey the lifeguard's instructions.

Why is it important to be safe in the water? People drown when too much water gets into their lungs. When that happens, the lungs can't put oxygen in the blood. Then too little oxygen gets to the brain and the rest of the body. Drowning is the second most common cause of death from injuries among kids under the age of 14. What is the least amount of water it takes to drown? Youn children are especially at risk. They can drown in less than two inches of water. That means drowning can happen where you'd least expect it: the sink, the toilet bowl, fountains, buckets, inflatable pools or small bodies of standing water around your home such as ditches filled with rainwater.

Kids need constant supervision around water, whether the water is in a bathtub, a wading pool, a spa, the beach or lake. So, please be careful and have fun this spring and summer, but remember the rules around water. It only takes 20 to 60 seconds before submersion occurs.

• The Ladies Auxiliary of the Volunteer Fire Association of Tappan recently observed 87 years of service to their fire department. Several of the ladies gathered at the Old '76 House Restaurant for brunch and to celebrate. It was more than a celebration for the auxiliary; they were there to honor two very special women: Jean Diller (at left) for 57 years of service and Jacqueline Graney (at right) for 50 years of service. Both ladies have been very active members of the Tappan Ladies Auxiliary since the day they joined and their dedication and commitment have been very much a part of the Auxiliary's success.

LAFASNY President Dianne Werner (pictured at center) was in attendance and presented Jean and Jackie with years of service certificates and thanked them. In addition, these ladies have been members of the Ladies Auxiliary Rockland County VFA for 47 years, Ladies Auxiliary Hudson Valley VFA for 42 years, and LAFASNY for 45 years. That's quite an amazing accomplishment. Both Jackie and Jean have spent the better part of their life serving their community and the volunteer fire service and they are to be commended. Congratulations and best wishes!

• I would like to note that LAFASNY depends on the hospitality of member Auxiliaries around the State to host our Sectional meetings. I wish to thank the Solvay Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary of Syracuse in Onondaga County, which hosted the September 24, 2016 meeting; the Palenville Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary of Palenville in Greene County, which hosted the November 5, 2016 meeting; and the Brighton Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary of the Town of Tonawanda in Erie County, which hosted the April 22, 2017 meeting. We appreciate all your efforts, hard work and invitation to LAFASNY to your home fire departments. Great job, ladies!

• The newly elected officers for Erie County Ladies Auxiliary are President Toni Casey, Vice President Karen Atkinson, Secretary Shirley Krawczyk, Treasurer Linda Makin, Financial Secretary Sue Yager, Director Toni Petrillo, Director Amanda Wagner, Chaplain Cathy Pucci and Conductress Carol Ritchey.

We have a very unique situation in the fact that we have two mother-daughter sets on our board: Toni Casey and Toni Petrillo and Sue Yager and Amanda Wagner. We are training our girls to take over and learn the ropes!

• Brighton Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary (Erie County) presented Shirley DeBalski with her 50-year member pin at our last meeting.

• Congratulations to Jeanette Chapman on receiving her 25-year pin from LAFASNY Director Toni Casey at the Erie County meeting. Below is a picture of Toni giving Jeanette the pin.

• The WHBFD Ladies Auxiliary cooked and served dinner for Maureen’s Haven Homeless Project on March 26. Also donated were personal items for them to use. There were about 30 guests and everything was appreciated.
Karen McDonald received the Volunteer of the Year award, which was presented by the East Greenbush Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary. The Volunteer of the Year is nominated by her peers. The presentation took place at the Installation Banquet for East Greenbush, which was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy on January 21. She also received a gift certificate. Congratulations to Karen. This is the third year for this award.

- On March 6, Chief Daniel Ryan, Jr. of the Delmar Fire Department awarded the Delmar FD Firefighter of the Year award to Past President Carolyn Day, of the Delmar Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary. Carolyn has been a member for more than 50 years, holding many offices and contributing thousands of hours of time in service to the Department.

Past President Day exhibits the true spirit of a volunteer. She is currently serving as Treasurer of the Hudson-Mohawk Volunteer Firefighter’s Association Ladies Auxiliary and is a life member of the Delmar FD Auxiliary, having held almost every position there throughout her time in service.

From the HMVFA to LAFASNY and the Albany County Volunteer Fireman’s Association Ladies Auxiliary, Carolyn and her late husband Jerry Day are fixtures of the volunteer fire service in the Town of Bethlehem and throughout our state. Together, they were instrumental in the establishment of the Albany County Volunteer Fireman’s Association Auxiliary Burn Fund and always strived to support the mission of the FASNY Firemen’s Home. Her lifetime of service and dedication to the volunteer fire community is remarkable and nearly impossible to measure. Congratulations, Carolyn!

The DeRuiter Auxiliary is very busy hosting the first Madison County Fireman’s Bowling Tournament to benefit the volunteer firemen in Madison County in times of need.

- The LAFASNY Convention will be on August 9-11 at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Syracuse. The Convention is being run by the LAFASNY Officers once again, but we do need your support to make this a success.

In the mailing that you received in February, there is a request for journal ads and boosters as well as chances for the Convention Raffle, 50/50 Convention Raffle, a lottery tree raffle and a June Daily drawing ticket. Please help defray the cost of the Convention by taking chances, boosters, etc. All ads and boosters must be in by May 31.

Audit and Executive Committee meetings will be held on Wednesday morning and registration is on Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. (for dues and registration). Registration on Thursday is from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Dues will only be accepted from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. in accordance with our bylaws.

When reserving your rooms, please be sure that you are using “our” registration form. It says ‘LAFASNY” on the top. You need to use this form so that we get credit for the rooms.

The luncheon will be on August 10 at the Comfort Inn. You will have a choice of roast top sirloin or chicken cordon bleu for $18 or Boston baked haddock for $21. All luncheons include rolls and butter, garden salad, vegetable medley, rice or potato, dessert and coffee. Again, this form was in the mailing. The deadline for luncheon registration is July 26. Your paid tickets can be picked up at Convention registration on August 9. Checks should be made payable to LAFASNY and mailed to Jo Ann P. Dunn.

If you need a luncheon or reservation form, you can see any LAFASNY Officer or you can email me directly at fdaux@aol.com

We look forward to seeing you at Convention!

Contributors to this column included President Dianne Werner, First Vice President Jean Christensen, Second Vice President Diana Balling, Two-Year Director Sherry Byron, Three-Year Director Toni Casey, Four-Year Director Nancy McMasters, Cody Hoyle and Chief Daniel J. Ryan, Jr.

Pictured above, from left, are: First Assistant Chief Arlie Hedges, Chief Dan Ryan, Carolyn Day and Second Assistant Chief Rick Root.

- The annual DeRuiter Fireman’s Auxiliary Installation Banquet was held on January 28. The Auxiliary members were installed by LA-FASNY Financial Secretary Jeri Rowlingson. The following Officers were installed: President Judy Balenske, Vice President Denise Coon, Secretary Shirley Fuller, Treasurer Nancy Parkhurst, Fair Committee Co-Chairs Judy Balenske and Denise Coon, Sunshine Sally Perkins, and Historian June Miller. Awards were given for 40 years of service to Shirley Beesmer, Bonnie Ziegler and Sandi Burdick; 35 years of service to Nancy Parkhurst; and 30 years of service to Sally Perkins and Kelly Covert. Congratulations to all the Ladies and a special thanks to Jeri for a job well done.

Western New York
Stanley MacWilliams
Caledonia • NY

As the months of committee meetings slowly go by, it will all too soon be Convention time.

The 2017 Convention will be hosted by the Frontier Fire Co. July 27-29 with meetings at the St. Johnsburg Fire Hall, Tent City at the Town of Wheatfield Town Hall grounds. The Secretary’s Office will be located in the Town of Wheatfield Community Building.

The Trustees will meet here to audit the Association books on Thursday, July 27, at 11:00 a.m.
The Livingston County Volunteer Firefighter’s Association met February 16 at the Dansville Fire Department. The Fire Prevention Essay Committee Chairwoman Brenda DiSalvo-Traber recognized the following essay winners for 2016:

The fifth and sixth grade winners were: Lydia Harrington, Lima Christian School, Grade 5 (first place); Ella Frazer, EBH Dansville School, Grade 5 (second place); Kali Meyer, EBH Dansville School, Grade 5 (third place); Anthony Eaton, Wayland-Cohocton Middle School, Grade 5 (honorable mention); and Nathan Herring, Lima Christian School, Grade 5 (honorable mention).

The seventh and eighth grade winners were: Jadyn Bosley, Dansville High School, Grade 8 (first place); Elizabeth Van Dick, Honeoye Falls Lima Middle School, Grade 8 (second place); Maria Larsen, Honeoye Falls Lima Middle School, Grade 8 (third place); Olivia Hullihen, Honeoye Falls Lima Middle School, Grade 7 (honorable mention); and Ryan Symons, Honeoye Falls Lima Middle School, Grade 7 (honorable mention).

LCVFA Chaplain Robert Ossont of the Mt. Morris Fire Department was installed as Chaplain by Past President and FASNY Firemen’s Home Trustee David J. Wolf.

The Mumford Fire Department, Monroe County, recently recognized Firefighter/Fire Policeman Robert “Bob” McGinnis for his 60 years of dedicated and loyal service to the Mumford FD (1956 - 2016) at the department's Appreciation-Recognition Dinner.

With the Caledonia and Mumford fire departments on the border of the Monroe-Livington County line, Bob has been very active in both counties. As we get older, and the years go by, we can still maintain our friendships and attend meetings.

Note: I guess that’s why we write fire service letters – to see where these years have gone.

The April 2 meeting of the Western New York Volunteer Firemen’s Association started at noon with the legislative update from Robin Schott, FASNY and Western New York Volunteer Firemen’s Association Legislative Chairman. FASNY Director Edward Tase, Jr. officiated.

They showed the new video by FASNY on cancer in the fire service and how it affects all firefighters.

They presented a very informative program on legislation and the Issues of United Concern and which legislators are involved in sponsoring those bills. Television media came from Buffalo to record the meetings and interview officers. About 45 people attended.

At the 2:00 p.m. regular meeting, 84 members were present, including nine Past Presidents and nine Trustees.

Monroe County Fire Prevention Committee Chairman Alan Way asked to have his program through the WNYVFA changed from Fire Prevention Week in October to after the first of each year. This is because many schools, teachers and principals do not have time to fit in a fire prevention program immediately after returning to school in September due to New York State regulations. The schools have requested this change. With dwindling support, many schools in many counties are not putting in letters from their students. The WNYVFA Officers and Trustees approved this change.

As times change, we need to change and update our way of looking at and updating – improving – our program to bring its special meaning and importance to the schools and students.

Bowling Committee Chairman Tom McLaughlin reported on the final results of the February/March tournament held in Niagara Falls at Rapid Lanes. The ladies and men who participated in the tournament had fun producing very good scores in the various groups of bowlers. Congratulations to all who participated: bowlers, committee members and helpers.

The WNYVFA Steering Committee reported that after several interviews of interested people, they decided to support FASNY Director Edward Tase, Jr. for the position of Second Vice President at the 2018 FASNY Convention.

As I look through the WNYVFA Officers’ Committee Book for names and information, I found that there were many names listed of members retired, ill, living out of state or just not able to attend for other reasons. Please let it be known so I know who you are and where you are located.

The Officers and members of the WNYVFA send you our best regards saying: Let us hear from you – your input is still valued.

Remember! We are: people helping people, caring and sharing. As they give to us, we give in return.

Chairman Schott is interviewed along with WNYVFA President Bruce Mack.
Some 85 members attended April’s regular meeting of the WNYVFA.

Chaplain Bob Ossont was sworn in by Past President and FASNY Firemen’s Home Trustee David J. Wolf.

The LCVFA Fire Prevention Essay Contest winners pose with Chairwoman Brenda DiSalvo-Taber.

The Westfield Fire Department and the Westfield Exempt Firemen’s Association are meeting regularly to put the 2017 Southwestern Volunteer Firemen’s Association Convention together. We are setting our sights on making the Convention family-oriented. The theme for this year’s convention is “Firefighters of the Future,” and we are counting on the fire companies to come up with some very interesting ideas for their dugouts and the Comic Parade.

The Convention will begin on Wednesday, August 2, with a kick-off dinner at the fire hall. The menu is still in the planning stage, so stay tuned! The SVFA will begin conducting business the following morning with a special presentation by FASNY’s Reorganization Committee. Friday morning will begin with a Memorial Service for our deceased members and will continue with the presentation of awards. We are also in the planning stages for firematic competitions and fire training both days.

Friday evening, the Village of Westfield will be hosting its “First Friday,” which is when the area merchants are outside on Main Street to show off their goods, offer samples of various food and drink, and provide some entertainment. The Comic Parade will be that same evening, marching down Main Street into the thick of the event and a great audience! A dance is also planned for later Friday evening. Saturday morning will open with our farmers market in Moore Park, along with antique fire trucks on display, some vendors and a small flea market. We will also have Fredonia’s Safety Trailer on site to occupy the younger crowd!

If any fire company or department is looking for dugouts, please contact Dave Ward, our Dugout Chairman, at (716) 269-4418 or Ed Kneer, Convention Chairman, at (716) 753-0494. Some of you may have already been in contact with a property owner from a previous Westfield Convention. If so, you must still contact Dave Ward to make arrangements to go over and sign a contract.

I need to set the record straight. The information shared regarding the Himrod Fire Department’s awards in the last issue was from the 2016 Awards Banquet, which I did not realize! This year’s Annual Banquet for Himrod was held January 21.

This year’s awardees included Firefighter of the Year Eugene Nolt along with Howard “Scrubby” Covert. Covert also marked 45 years of service in Himrod. The First Responders Award went to Debra Westfall. Lynnford Hoover and Jared Webster both received the Presidential Award. The Lucy Covert Award for dedicated service to the community went to Stephen Acker. Recipients of the D.B Miles Award were Amy Siwak and Joyce McKamey. The Special Recognition Award went to Ray Miller of the Dundee Fire Department.

The Rush Volunteer Fire Department of Monroe County held its Annual Past Officers’ Banquet on March 4. Service awards were given
to Abby O’Neill for five years, Vern Wandersleben for 10 years and Royer Pfersick for 15 years. Diana G. Pfersick and Clem “Red” Bayer received their Life Member Gold Cards for 25 years of service.

The Genesee Region STEP Council has recognized Rush Fire Department Past Chief James J. Bucci, Jr. with the Lloyd Levy Award for Outstanding Service to the EMS Community. Rush Past Chief and current Chairman of the Board of Rush Fire Commissioners Robert J. Faugh has been named recipient of the Monroe Livingston Regional EMS Council Harriet C. Weber Award. This award is for demonstrated dedication, responsibility, exemplary professional behavior, ingenuity and insight in the EMS community. His nomination is now going to New York State EMS Council for consideration for the state award.

Wayne County’s Lincoln Fire Department hosted the Life Skills Classes of Wayne Central School for a day of fire safety education on March 29. This is the second year that this program has been provided to the school district’s special students.

Robert Brewer, aka “Fireman Bob,” is a certified fire and life safety educator who provided the students with an informative and entertaining daylong program. Topics covered included personal and family safety, school safety, and kitchen safety. The students toured the fire station with firefighters Mike McManus and Mike Frederes.

All students were given the opportunity to board a fire truck. One high school student who requires use of a wheelchair was ecstatic that he was given the opportunity to sit in a real fire truck. His smile lit up the room! Students all practiced “Stop Drop and Roll” and they used an actual water can fire extinguisher with guidance from Captain Jim Gallaher. Also assisting with the students that day were Bob’s daughter Claire “The Bear” Brewer, a ninth grader at Wayne Central High School and Firefighter Ken Hoy.

The Walworth EMS Ambulance came to allow the students time to see the EMS side of things with EMTs Nick Eckert and Drew Roche providing guidance with their equipment. The Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department provides fire and rescue services for Northwest Walworth and mutual aid for surrounding fire departments. Lincoln Fire Department also has a Hydrant Helper program that awards patches to youth who help clear hydrants from snow.

Henrietta Fire Department Station No. 6 was the site of an Active Shooter Response Program for the Fifth Battalion of Monroe County. Officer Ryan Sherman, firearms instructor with the Ogden Police Department, and Todd Baxter, a former Marine and Captain of the Rochester SWAT team, led the group in classroom and hands-on experience should they encounter an active shooter situation. Attendees were familiarized with weapons most likely to be used. Skills taught included deflection of an attacker as well as deflection if faced with a handgun.

Northern Central held its Legislative Outreach Program on March 4 at the Ontario County Public Training Facility in Canandaigua. Led by Northern Central’s Legislative Chair Dave Violas (pictured below), the morning provided those attending with all legislative updates. Tony Cruz of the New York Firefighter Cancer Support Network was the keynote speaker.

On April 8, James T. Lechner of the Chili Fire Department was presented with a proclamation from FASNY by FASNY Director Diana G. Pfersick to honor his 50 years as a firefighter. Pfersick also presented him with a certificate of appreciation for 50 years of service from the Office of Fire Prevention and Control.
Northern Central’s Annual Convention will be June 2 and 3 at the Himrod Fire Department in Yates County. Room arrangements are provided by the Showboat Hotel. Convention highlights will be provided in the next issue.

Here’s some news from Walt Geidel:

On March 25, some 75 members of the Unadilla Fire Department, Auxiliary and Emergency Squad, along with family and friends of Frank Slocum, attended a celebration held at Brook’s Barbeque in Oneonta. Frank Slocum received special recognition for his retirement after 60 years of service to the Unadilla Fire Department, Unadilla Fire Police and Unadilla Emergency Medical Squad. Slocum himself said he was overwhelmed and appreciated his retirement celebration. As his wife, Jean, said, “He would do it all over again.”

Slocum was honored with proclamations from FASNY and the Central New York Firemen’s Association, both represented by Walter Geidel. Representing Assemblyman Cliff Crouch were Joe Angelino, former Chief of the Norwich Fire Department, and Senator James Seward of the 51st District. Both spoke of Slocum’s unerring willingness to help, generosity of time and dedication to always going above and beyond. As a person forever willing to step up when and where help was needed, Slocum embodies the spirit of volunteerism.

A proclamation was also presented by Unadilla Mayor David Welch, who described Slocum as a most respected person in Unadilla and a role model that inspired others.

Past fire department Chiefs and present fire Chief Jeremy Hilton presented a special plaque with engravings to Slocum and his wife, Jean, alongside a gift card for dinner out.

Throughout his 60 years of service, Slocum received numerous awards, including EMT Driver of the Year multiple times, the Unadilla Chamber of Commerce’s Good Neighbor Award together with Jean in 1998, and the Volunteer of Valor Award from the 51st Senate District in 2008 from Senator Seward.

On March 25, the Onondaga County Fire Coalition (which consists of the Onondaga County Volunteer Firemen’s Association, the Fire Chiefs Association, the Fire Police Association and the Fire Districts Association) held the Ninth Annual Onondaga County Fire and Emergency Services Education and Legislative Breakfast at the Camillus Fire Station.

FASNY President Kenneth Pienkowski gave a passionate presentation on the presumptive cancer bill prior to showing the newest FASNY video, “The Cost of Cancer in the Fire Service.”

As several speakers mentioned, including State Senator John DeFrancisco, “Pienkowski’s powerful presentation made it hard not to be emotional.”

Central New York
Gordy Kotars
Syracuse • NY

Well, happy spring to all of our readers and hopefully we survived our sometimes brutal, yet sometimes mild, winter. Regardless of which winter you experienced, it doesn’t change the fact that spring is upon us. This is actually a difficult time for many volunteer firefighters, especially those with families or those working two jobs. Now that the weather is turning, everyone has spring yard projects to jump on. Outdoor sports activities start up for kids and the parents too. Throw in the spring breaks for travel and how much time is left for the good old VFD?

So, those of us who have been doing this for a few years and still have healthy and happy marriages and families have learned how to adapt our time so that everyone, including our Chief, is satisfied. You can’t leave the Chief out of the equation, no way. But, don’t stop there because another person that needs to be satisfied with your output is your boss. If you’re not putting enough effort and time into your vocation, it’s going to show in your paycheck or, worse yet, in your employment status. Therefore, it seems the ability to spend just the right amount of time and juggle your responsibilities comes with experience. And in the fire service, this very often comes down to teamwork.

A good example is committees that work well together, everyone sharing a load or taking different responsibilities, to achieve a goal. Each department’s RecruitNY Committee had a huge task all leading up to the last weekend in April. Hope yours was successful!
Dave Denniston, the multi-titled and multi-talented fire service icon from Cortland County, was the keynote speaker. His educational topic was “Protecting the Protectors.” It explored what our roles are as leaders in our organizations: to protect those who have dedicated themselves to protecting their communities.

Many elected officials from local towns and villages as well as representatives from the Senate and the Assembly were in attendance, not to mention about 40 percent of the local fire service. That is a figure the new Local Committee would like to improve upon next year. A scheduling glitch made us switch dates this year, but we’ll make sure that doesn’t happen next year.

The CNYFA had their annual Spring Meeting in the quaint little village of Hammondsport at the Hammondsport Fire Department on April 1. It might have been the first day of fishing, but either it was too cold and rainy or the fish don’t bite in Keuka Lake. During this author’s drive down the picturesque east shoreline, I only saw one fisherman out on the water and that was at the southernmost tip near the fire station. Maybe it was Charlie or Janet Marie trying to get lunch? Oops, nope, it couldn’t be for two reasons. First, they were both inside the station playing great hosts to the CNYFA and CNYFLA and preparing for their joint meeting location. Secondly, fish was not on the menu. That’s because the staff at the Hammondsport Fire Department put out an all-star luncheon consisting of roast pork, stuffing, mashed potatoes, veggies and gravy. It was just like everyone’s Mom used to make. I’d like to give a big thanks to the Hammondsport FD and Ladies Auxiliary. Anyway, a very productive meeting was conducted despite the absence of our superstar Secretary, who was on a much-deserved vacation with her daughter. Just to make note: Assistant Secretary Sean Greene did an outstanding job stepping up to the plate. One very encouraging item came up and it had to do with a bid that was accepted to allow the Hammondsport FD to host the 2018 CNYFA Convention. It will be in mid-July 2018, which is a beautiful time to be at the tip of Keuka Lake. There will be much more information to come about this in the near future.

Many items for this summer’s annual Convention at the White Eagle Conference Center were also discussed and reviewed. If you need information, the website is a good source to download a whole Convention package at www.cnyfa.com

Speaking of conventions, at the FASNY Convention in Syracuse this summer, the CNYFA and OCVFA (Onondaga), in conjunction with Pat Gavin and his Owego Hose Teams Inc., want to try an afternoon at the races. If you’re not in a hurry to leave town on Saturday, stick around either to watch or participate in some combined/modified races. The race site will be somewhere on or very nearby the Convention grounds. They are planning on running the ladder, wye and straight lay races using CNYFA rules. As an addition, the equipment and cart races from the OCVFA will be run. Registration will start at 12:30 p.m. and the races are scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. There will be more to come on this in the next issue. You can contact Mike Block at (315) 491-0497 or mblock@wwdb.org. You can also contact Pat Gavin at (202) 494-9108 or Patrick.Gavin@fema.dhs.gov for more info.

FASNY’s 2016 Fire Safety Educator of the Year William Wren (at left) was honored by the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) with a Fire Service Achievement Award for Fire Prevention and Education.

A 28-year member of the New Hartford Fire Department, Wren was recognized for his efforts developing fire prevention and life safety programs for elementary, middle and high school students. In addi-
tion to reaching students, Wren adapted programming to reach other groups within the community such as day cares, preschools, Boy and Girl Scouts and senior living facilities.

The programs have reached over 2,500 students and 300 adults, not including those who participate in special community-wide activities during Fire Prevention Month.

Wren received the award at NVFC’s Spring Meeting in April. Pictured, from left, are: FASNY Director and NVFC Executive Committee Member Brian F. McQueen, FASNY Immediate Past President Robert N. McConville, FASNY First Vice President Steven E. Klein, Barb Wren, William Wren, FASNY President Kenneth Pienkowski, and FASNY Past President and NVFC New York Director David Jacobowitz.

– Submitted by Brian F. McQueen, FASNY Director

Northern New York

Jerry Flanders
Copenhagen • NY

We begin this column with a message from Northern New York Volunteer Firemen’s Association First Vice President Arthur “Scott” McRobbie:

As we welcome the warmer spring, we are preparing for the summer events. The big event, of course, is our Convention at Lake Placid June 8-10. By the time of this publication, we will have held the pre-Convention meeting at Lake Placid.

At the mid-winter meeting at Malone, Mike St. Louis gave us a report on the plans for the event. Mike has been very busy and it sounds as if they are well prepared for a great convention. I thank Mike for his dedication on this tremendous project. On Thursday, June 8, the golf tournament will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Craig Wood Golf Club in Lake Placid. Thursday evening, we will have a social at the Lake Placid Horse Show Grounds on the edge of the village heading out toward the ski jump facility. This starts at 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 9, will start with the annual meeting and elections at 9:00 a.m. at the Lake Placid Convention Center. A lunch will follow at the Convention Center. At 1:30 p.m., the Memorial and Firefighter of the Year ceremonies will be held at the Adirondack Methodist Church, which is near the Convention Center. On Saturday, we will start the day with the youth training exercises at 8:00 a.m. Dale Barker is working very hard on this and we hope for as great a program as last year. The parade will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will travel down Main Street, ending at the Convention Center. We regret that these two events will overlap, but other events in the village have dictated the tight schedule. The firematic drill will start at 1:00 p.m. The drill will be held at the track near the fire station. We hope for a safe and enjoyable Convention for all and expect a large turnout.

I invite all departments to encourage their junior firefighters to attend as they are the future for our continued success. Our own department now has the good fortune of having some new members as a result of our RAM program and I hope all departments will have some type of junior program. If I can be of assistance in establishing such programs, please drop me a line. We have several good sources within the region and I’d be happy to help you.

I would like to thank President Larry Hall for the great support and direction that he has given me during the last four years. I only wish that I may be able to continue in the admirable footsteps that he has established and that will be a huge task. It has been a great honor to represent this sectional at many local events.

First, a thank you to Scott McRobbie for his addition to the column and explaining our Convention next month. As you can see, the Lake Placid Department has done a yeoman’s job in preparing for this event. It is now up to you and departments to attend and participate.

The Northern Drill Team Captains Association met in April to select the lineups for the drills held this summer. If you need information, contact area representative James Henry.

Our officials will meet for training later this month in Copenhagen to prepare for the drill and parade season. Thanks to all who attend.

The parent NNYVFA organization will be having an election of officers at the Convention. Names of officers were reviewed at the meeting last month. Jim Smith of West Carthage is a candidate for the office of Second Vice President.

To update from the last column, Elsmere is scheduled for Saturday, August 5, on the tournament schedule. Also, the fair parades for three of our NNYVFA counties have been scheduled for July 11 in Watertown, July 18 at Lowville and August 2 at Gouverneur. These are open parades and use state-approved officials.

We hope that you are taking advantage of the certificate program that FASNY and NNYVFA offer for members of longtime service. Also, departments of long service are honored by FASNY.

We hope for a safe and enjoyable Convention for all and expect a large turnout.
Springtime in upstate New York brings the birds, the flowers and the warm sunshine as well as the annual meetings of the hundreds of volunteer fire companies and departments in the many small villages spread across the upstate area. State Law dictates that the annual meeting of the volunteer fire companies and departments be held on the first Tuesday in April. This brings with it a spring-cleaning of a different nature. Many organizations change chiefs and officers; some change presidents and table officers; and some change nothing. Banquets are planned and many fire halls are “spiffed” up to show the pride in their organizations. Yes, springtime brings new life as well as new hope into many of our upstate firehouses.

Springtime also brings some challenges as we assess our membership and our needs with regard to membership and training. I believe RecruitNY is held in the spring for a reason. That is when the most people are eager to start new adventures and the firefighters are excited about meeting new people and giving the "nickel tour" of the fire station.

It seems like spring is when our fire units assess their needs and plan training for the upcoming warmer months. As the burden of more government regulations and guidelines continue to be pushed on us, we must realize we also have to keep up with the world. We are all faced with dwindling staff and tougher training requirements, but keeping current with these training evolutions and not letting your firefighters get behind in training is the best way to avoid suddenly realizing you have a lack of qualified firefighters to hold office. Experience is an important tool for the firefighter, but training is key to its success.

Finally, springtime in most villages brings about budget deadlines. Chiefs should work closely with their village boards to educate them as to why you need those new air packs or that new turnout gear. If the elected officials are not aware of why you need an item, they are in most cases reluctant to give up the money. Explaining the justification for an expenditure, such as an OSHA mandate, will usually make them feel much better about the expense.

The Hudson-Mohawk Volunteer Firefighter’s Association truly hopes all your springtime projects are a success and congratulates all the “Officers of Spring” as they assume or continue leadership of the volunteer fire service.

Get immediate updates on the volunteer fire service – find “FASNY” on Facebook!
As the 2017 season is fast approaching, we urge our teams and members to take a moment to remember the history of our sport and our fire departments. Each fire department has a unique story as to how it was established.

Volunteer fire departments were founded on the basis of community. The community came together to create an organization that would protect and serve them. The fire department served as a centerpiece to the communities before the days of cell phones, computers and even automobiles.

Fire departments are only as strong as the community they are in. The fire department consists of not only the members, but associate members such as juniors, ladies auxiliaries and other support organizations. In the early days, each member played a vital role to ensure the bucket brigade was successful in extinguishing a fire and thus protecting the community.

A fire department is a unique organization as it is larger than any one person. To effectively run such an organization, it takes many individuals coming together as a team. These unique organizations were around over 100 years ago and will continue well into the future, serving the needs of the community.

Many will ask how this relates to drill teams. Well, many of our members spend endless hours training, responding to calls and fulfilling a need to their departments, both on and off the track. Many are or have been past chiefs, commissioners, board members and officers.

The next time you are preparing for an event, remember you not only represent your department, but your community. Our events not only provide a unique way of training, but also build camaraderie. We urge all of our members to not only focus on competing but getting involved in making your events the best community events they can be.

For over 100 years, fire departments throughout New York State have competed against each other to measure their skills. These competitions have evolved into a terrific display of basic firefighting skills and teamwork – exhibitions that are one-of-a-kind around the world. Your volunteer department is welcome to compete and we are here to show you how! We urge you to visit www.nysdrillteams.com to learn how you can get involved.
NEW MEMBERS

Albany County
Elsmere Fire Company ‘A’, Inc.
Andrea L. Gallachi
Steven J. Miller
Caillie V. Shepherd

Selkirk Fire Company No. 1
Steven Bender
Michael Pelton
Giles Wagoner

Selkirk Volunteer Fire Company No. 2
Christopher Corbett
Steven Hummel, Jr.
Samantha Vick
Jacob Willey

Allegany County
Rushford Volunteer Fire Company
Andrew Ackerman
Christopher Armison
Daniel Gaulrink

Short Tract Fire Company
Kim Wilcox

Bronx County
Bronx Volunteer Fire Patrol Co. 4
Julia E. Bello
Jason Vega

Broome County
Chenango Fire Company, Inc.
Jack Ellis
James M. Ellis

East Maine Fire Company
Mark Medina

Harpswells Fire Department
Lloyd Byers
Craig Schnurbusch

Hillcrest Fire Company, Inc.
April Rauscher

Cattaraugus County
Kinney Hose Company, Inc.
Vicki Brainard
Nick Corwin
Michael Green
Kyle Howard
Nathan Kloc
Renae Summers

Perrysburg Volunteer Fire Company No. 1
Dylan Accordino
Christopher Bentley

West Valley Volunteer Hose Company
Derrick Miller

Cayuga County
Aurelius Volunteer Fire Department
Todd Burnett
Randal Gardner
Tyler Jirinec
Chris Kuystn

Genoa Fire Department, Inc.
Brandon Fairbanks
Matt Myers
Danielle Pisano
Hannah Roman
Paul Wheeler

Chautauqua County
Bemus Point Fire Department
John L. Johnston, Jr.

Chenango County
Borden Hose Fire Company
Jayson C. Van Valkenburg
Guilford Fire Department
Bradley S. Darling

Clinton County
South Plattsburgh Volunteer Fire Department
Sebastian Barie
Dan Bridgeman
Joe Bridgeman
Scott Brown
Ryan Fincham
Robert LaFaver
Austin Porter
Luke Walker

Cortland County
Cortlandville Fire Department
Jonathan Alteri
Kimberly Austin
Errika Bareiss
Ben Bowers
Stephen Bradley
James K. Cornell
Ryan Lavender
Eve Mascoll
Andrew McLaughlin
William McNeil
Brandon Stelick
Joseph Tucci
Brianna Weir

Homer Fire Department
Jeremy Barber
Jennifer Evener
Robert Johnson
Tyler Porticello

Trumansburg Fire Department
Tanya Burnett

Delaware County
Bloomville Hose Company
Schuyler James Smith

Sidney Center Fire Department
Aaron M. McCullough
Jonathan Newell
Carl Quackenbush

Dutchess County
New Hackensack Fire Company
Daniel J. Roeten
Rhinecliff Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Richard Kipp, III

Union Vale Fire Company
Nellie Acocella
John Conte
Michael Cross
Eric Donaldson
Shelby Dubique
Daniel Fernandes
Sean Lewis
Jacob Meester
Timothy Mester
Ray Saccente
Mark Spiegel

Erie County
Akron Fire Company
Ryan Ascutio
Trevor DiGesare
Grace Lowery
Dustin Smith
Dominic Stutz

Bowmansville Volunteer Fire Association, Inc.
Nyssa Clausaud
Christopher Koeth
Yvette Koeth
Lauren Pfohl
Kevin Przybly
Trey Theobald

Chaffee-Sardinia Fire Company
David P. Van Ocker, II
Depew Fire Department
T.J. Rzeszutek
Elicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company
Roger A. Brennan
Hutchinson Hose Company
James Christopher
Daniel McKeever
David F. Sherman

Jamison Road Volunteer Fire Company
Taylor M. Nolan
Reserve Hose Company
Paul Hintermeier

South Wales Volunteer Fire Company
Simon Edward Dietrich

Vigilant Fire Company No. 1, Inc.
William Cleary

Essex County
Essex Fire Department & Rescue Squad
Joseph King
Nathaniel Yeager
Keene Valley Hose and Ladder Company, No. 1
Tina Bell
Shervin Dick
Keene Volunteer Fire Department
Scott Smith

Port Henry Fire Department
Tyré J. Hayes
William T. Holland
Steven J. Martin

Franklin County
Burke Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
Laura McQuinn Stewart

Fulton County
Mayfield Fire Department
Abby Jones
Bill Jones

Genesee County
Bethany Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Kyle Lee Rombaut

Greene County
Coxsackie Hose Company
No. 3
Ashley Earle
Lillie Ecker
Mark Evans
William C. MacDonald
Dakota Marsilio
Nikki Muller
Thomas Notabartolo
Ashley Pelton
Kevin Tobin
Michael Weidner
David Whitcomb

D. M. Hamilton Steam Fire Company No. 2
Branna Adrian
Robyn Bennett
William Bennett
Horace Boice
Timothy Boice
Victor Cespedes
Larry Connolly
Ronald Dumery, III
Ronald A. Earle
Torie Hueter
Harry Kniffen, Jr.
Alli Kohlmeyer
Sheri Kowalewski
John Kusisto, Jr.
Frank Lockwood
Neil Carr
Jennifer McKeon
Sarah Spagnola
Kyle Stafford
Ken Swartout

Hamilton County
Long Lake Fire Department
Garrett Richard Austin

Herkimer County
Poland Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Rebecca Abbott
Kyle Anna
Peter Burritt
Gene Carnnight
Shawn Fleming
Timothy Fleming
Michael Foster
Gary Philips

West Winfield Henry Hiteeman Engine & Hose Company
Dylan Grann

Jefferson County
Antwerp Volunteer Fire Department
Jason Iverson

The Volunteer Firefighter

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Michael Stoffel
Charles Warner, II
Belleville Volunteer Fire Department
Jennifer Lynn Corron
Henderson Fire Department, Inc.
Conor William Poehmel
Natural Bridge Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Robert Ball
Jeff Davis
Zyna Edwards
Jonathan Murphy
Brandon Olley
Damian Olley

Lackawanna County
Clarks Summit Fire Co. No. 1, Inc.
George A. Yarns

Madison County
Georgetown Volunteer Firemen’s Association, Inc.
David Canfield
Luke Heintz
Bianca Kelly
Dakota Kelly
Kendra Kelly
Jake Pizzi
Justin Rodda
Howard Straight

Madison Fire Department
Edward Bachorik, II

Monroe County
Pittsford Volunteer Fire Association, Inc.
T.J. Hyland
Carl Jones
Scott MacLaughlin
Chelsea McCoy
Matthew Morrissey
Shelby Phillips
John Ragan

Montgomery County
Fort Plain Fire Department
Trevor Brownell
Conrad Carpenter
Jacob Mang
Gary Ruszkowski
Tom Ward

Nassau County
Albertson Hook & Ladder, Engine & Hose Company No. 1, Inc.
Jose Gonzalez Bravo

Atlantic Hook & Ladder Company No. 1
Misa Mota Torres
Michael Petty

Bellmore Fire Department
Steven M. Flanagan

Bethpage Fire Department
Engine Company No. 7
Thomas Handley
Shelby Mingst
East Meadow Hook and Ladder Company No. 1
Zachary Ludewig
Joseph Mullady
Salvatore Posillico
Friendship Engine & Hose Company
Michael A. Jovel
Jake Krieger
Lakeview Fire Department
G Castellanos
J Einbinder
D Kuzuk
G Ricca
Lakeview Fire District
R Johnson
Long Beach Fire Department
Robert J. Burkard
Lynbrook Engine Company No. 1
David McLeese
Christopher Rehpani
Lynbrook Hose Company No. 1, Inc.
Timothy Obanhein
Thomas Tuffy
Malverne Fire Department
Thomas Thomas Kurz
Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department
Alex Crewe
New Hyde Park Enterprise Engine Company No. 1
Nicholas Artusa
Hiren Trevedi
Oceanside Fire Department
Gennaro Piarulli
Sea Cliff Fire Department
Medic Unit No. 1
Joseph Baskin
David Peirce
Cynthia Stewart
Sea Cliff Hook & Ladder Company No. 1
Victor Weinz
South Farmingdale Rebel Engine Company No. 1
Chance Creamer
James Healey
Brian Mejia-Morel
Robert Warshawer
Stewart Manor Exempt and Benevolent Association
Thomas W. Skinner
West Hempstead Fire Department
Jason Cartolano
Michael A. Guarascio
Niagara County
Barker Fire Department, Inc.
Erin Hotaling
Thomas Moen
Aaron Mueller
Dillon Quett
Kristi Stansbury
South Lockport Fire Company, Inc.
Sheri Glaser
Jeffrey Jackson
Greg Nichols
Oneida County
Boonville Fire Company, Inc., Dean Yager
North Bay Volunteer Fire Department
Bailey Sansone
Westmoreland Fire Department, Company No. 1
Michelle Efflard
Chris Hanrahan
Jennifer Munn
Santana Smith
Whitesboro Volunteer Fire Department
Jordan R. Femia
Megan Raiser
Willowvale Fire Company, Inc.
Matt Wentrick
Onondaga County
Baldwinsville Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Billy Coseo
DeWitt Fire Department
Michael Conley
Marty Sicilia
Elbridge Volunteer Fire Company
Al Kemp
Kali Nolte
Tyler O’Brien
Brenda Orrals
Crystal Orzell
Judy Strazzere
Howlett Hill Fire Department, Inc.
Joshua Kasting
Jared Raichlin
Kyle Raichlin
Minoa Fire Department
Bruce Bennett
Randall Capriotti, Sr.
Jeremy Cunningham
Benjamin Hess
Arc Schefcic
Derek Schmitt
Megan Shane
Timm Shane
Chad Temple
Ontario County
North Side Fire Company
Paige Boor
Shane Burkett
Jessica Giovannini
Joshua Perry
Jacob Reeder
Oaks Corners Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Danielle Day
Allyea DeChick
Jacob Gayette
Christopher Maney
Port Gibson Volunteer Fire Department
Skyler Hoffman
Megan Wandersee
Orange County
Chester Fire Department
Morgan Brenner
Sheila Castalonia
Paul Collins, Jr.
John Crisano, Jr.
Christopher DiLorenzo
Jason Fried
Dennis Houlihan
Thomas Kersting
Alberto Lopez
Maclean
F. Malanga
Thomas McLoughlin
Timothy Murray
Gabriel Pagan
Ysid Pino
Paul Richardson
James Rosengrant
Matthew Zenick
Circleville Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Anthony Coppola
Tyler Sullivan
Thomas Weinert
Dan Lehmorn Fire Company No. 1
Benedetto A. Luchese
Middle Hope Fire Company, Inc.
Ed Bailey
David Barry
Russ Bevick
Ray Brown
Willie Brown
Kenneth Canfield
Daniel Carrazzone
Sabrina Chable
Rich Chiarantoni
Mickey Corizzo
Donna Corkery
Scott Corkery
Michael Corrizo
Jeff DeFrance
Les Denisar
Andi Driza
Brian Dubetsky
Thomas Dubetsky
Billy Gannon
Charlie Griffin
Greg Johnson
Derrick Kennan
Shawn Kiernan
Bob Knabbe
Matt Lewis
Jaden Little
John Martin
Karl Meyer
Scott Mocko
Charlie Morielo
Brian Morris
Robert Morris
Donny Nelson
Jerry Odell
Darren Olympia
Ray Ostrowski
Matt Patterson
Jenny Slaughter
Lee Slaughter, Sr.
Lee Slaughter, Jr.
N Spiak
Ibrahim Twal
Monroe Lakeside Fire & Rescue Company, Inc.
Daniel Lombino
Orleans County
Clarendon Fire Company, Inc.
James Sharp
Oswego County
Pennellville Volunteer Fire Association
Dereck Borrow
Shawn Crego
Marycait Daniels
Stephen Davis
Dylan DeWitt
James Dunham
Deashia Jackson
Michael Pagliaroli
Emily Riddell
Deb Roberts
Jack Roberts
Bradley Welden
Janine Welden
Paige Welden
Robert Welden
Sandy Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Jared Dana
Brady Deming
Brett Nielsen
Morgan Norton
Anthony Santschi
Logan Stone
Skylar Stone
Otsego County
C. H. Graham Hose Company
Heather Henderson
John Mellor
Derak Oberacker
Nick Scherer
Michael McGuire
Jeff Berlin
James Tanana
Jonathan Williams
West Oneonta Fire Department, Inc.
Stephen Comstock
Zachary Erbe
Edward Garbarino
Kadin J. Goodspeed
Debra Lees
Nathan Lowe
Douglas McAdams
John R. Quick
Putnam County
Kent Volunteer Fire Department
John P. Liggett
Lake Carmel Fire Department
Anthony F. Nimmons
Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department
Janine Angelo
Michael Armstead
Helen Bowers
Samantha Brown
Kellianne Cammarata
Jamie Fieldale
Joseph Geary
Colin Goldstien
Christopher Horan
Robert Kick
Dillon McDonough
Taylor McGuinness
Chelsea McNulty
Justin Morelli
Rosemarie Nikisher
James Ormsby
Maxwell Senger
Timothy Stasiak
Gerard Supple, III
Kevin Swayne
Samantha Valdez
Rensselaer County
Brunswick Fire Company No. 1
Jeffrey J. Alakey
Rocco A. Capuano
Castleton Fire Company, Inc.
Tate Thomas Tibbits
East Greenwich Fire Company, Inc.
William David Lindemann
Valley Falls Fire Company
Robert J. Hunt
Saint Lawrence County
Hannawa Falls Volunteer Fire Department
Mike Maresca
Saratoga County
Arvin Hart Fire Company
Jason L. Urdang
Hilcrest Fire Department
Joshua Christensen
Sohyun Park
Providence Fire District
Michael Armitage
Michael Delaney
Christopher Sleight
Trevor Stockman
South Glens Falls Fire Company, Inc.
Robert LaClair
Wilton Volunteer Fire Department
Tyler Veglia
Seneca County
Waterloo Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
James R. McClean
Suffolk County
Brookhaven Fire Company No. 1
Craig Connors
Centerport Fire Department
James Malico
continued on next page.
NEW MEMBERS

Cold Spring Harbor Volunteer Fire Department
Robert Carey
Sean Delle
Shanna Grant
Eric Hutt
Nicole Kirsch
Chris Rafuse
Brian Sweeney

Commmack Ambulance
Anne Castronova

Community Ambulance Company, Inc.
Julia Abbodanza
James Anglim
Victoria Barone
Katie Bociekmann
Deanna Cassino
Joseph Cirrone
Ryan Close
Gabriella Daidone
Khrishtian Dantone
Samantha Effinger
Jill Fine
John Folan
Nicholas Franco
Melissa Frederick
Charles Gilley
Krystal Grant
William Hudson
Steven Kind, Jr.
Jordan Koble
Ryan MacDonell
Ashley Machado
Michael Marchan
Kimberly McCann
Sedrick McRa
Michael Moloney
Yasser Nazar
Jennifer Neill
Andrew O’Rourke
Sean Parrington
Ada Rasolus
Jeffrey Rosenfeld
Daniel Schappert
Maria Soldano
Christopher Stelling
Kellie Tillinghast
Genevieve Wood-Minardi

Dix Hills Fire Department
Carl Bello
Tasheya Campbell
Vasili Kayouilis
Bryan Devine
Michael Lave
Gianne Levine
Marcus Magno
Anthony Morici
Christina Noriega
Dyllon O’Shea
Kevin O’Shea
Johnny Rock
Carly Rosen
Joseph Tousaint
Carson Traina
Wesley Wu

Hampton Bays Fire Company, Inc.
Peter Fahy
Steven Malone
Charles Miller, Jr.

Islip Fire Department
Elizabeth McGovern
Lindenhurst Fire Department, Inc.
Robert Greco
Anthony Maglione
Kyle Pettit

Manorville Fire Department
Company No. 2
Joseph Burrosca
Keith Nicholson
Charles Steuerwald
Joseph Tropea

Middle Island Volunteer Fire Department
Jeremiah Crossen
Tyler Kister

North Lindenhurst Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
Nicholas Esposito

Patchogue Fire Department
Yair Bitton
Christopher James

Quogue Fire Department
Timothy R. Shea

Resolute Hose Company No. 1
Robert Broome
John Mahoney
Arthur Nixon
John Palumbo
Dominic Perniciaro
Shane Remhill
Christopher Schneider
Ryan Smith
Timothy Stecher

Ridge Fire Department
Thomas Alman
Paul Akler
Johnathan Baumer
Coleen Boniti
Kristen Braaten
Katherine Callaghan
Megan Cashman
Stephen DeLena
Peter Greenan
Raina Guarisco
Marc Hotelling
Johnathan Morabito
Jeremy Morgan
Johnathan Morgan
Jennifer Phillips
Kevin Toner
Arron Woreth

Rookey Point Fire Department
Joseph A. Besemer
Sayville Hook & Ladder
Company No. 1
Alex Annarumma
Vincent Biano, Jr.
Quinn Mattia

Smithtown Fire Department
Auxiliary
Milissa Campana
St. James Fire Department
Michael Brooks
Rachel Caravella-Stepanek
Karoe Hinds
Ryan Mood

Kasey Spaur
Joseph Vanderwaag
Drew Werner
Stony Brook Fire Department
Maria Betancur
John daSilva
Alexa Demuel
Kevin Hambury
Bruce Johnston
Richard Kwok
Emily Lally
Jonathan Lally
Benjamin Nicastro
Cara Scriven

Vigilant Engine Company
Anthony Ariuemma
Joseph Garguilo
Adrian J. leddy
Steven Marino
Jessica Napolitano
Christina Orvieto
Jose Penalvo
Elizabeth Randazo
John Restituyo
Diego Tejada
Vincent Virgadamo

Wading River Fire Department
Lisa Fritz
Jacob Hayes
Brendan Stasiukiwicz
Cole Stasiukiewicz
West Babylon Volunteer Firemen’s Benevolent Association
Richard Gondolfo
West Islip Firemen’s Benevolent Association, Inc.
Chris Kleva
Robert Magro
David Mancarrelli
Dan Moellendorf
Brianna Raftery
Peter Vakarcel
Susan Waters

Tioga County
Owego Fire Department
Jessica Jones

Tompkins County
Dany Fire Company
Susan McLeary
Mary Silver
Richard Wilbur

Ulster County
Ellenville Fire District
Frank Bauer
R. A. Snyder Hose Company No. 1
Kassidy McGirr
Wallkill Hook, Ladder and Hose Company
Lance Booth
Robert Cromie
Courtney Davidson
Gina Davidson
Doug DeCicco
PJ DeGiorgio
William Lee

Kasey Meade
Gary Specht
Leif Spencer
Nathan Spencer
Nick Zwart
West Hurley Fire Department
Brian Fisher
Kyle Fisher

Warren County
Bay Ridge Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Jerry Campbell
Max O’Connell
Thomas Spaulding
Isac Stahl

West Glens Falls Fire Company No. 1
Harold Bouton
Joshua Kilnart

Washington County
J. A. Barkley Hose Company No. 1, Inc.
Matthew Jackson

Wayne County
Excelsior Hook & Ladder Company No. 4
Jamie DeBoeredere
Tyler DeBoeredere
Christopher Jensen

Westchester County
Briarcliff Fire Company
William Clark
Larchmont Fire Department
Jodie Bloom
Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association, Inc.
Mary F. Bohun
Phenix Hose Company No. 2
George Policello
Rye Fire Department
David H. Larr
Yorktown Heights Engine Company 1, Inc.
Brian Haberstroh

YOUTH AND EXPLORERS

Cattaragus County
Perryburg Volunteer Fire Company No. 1
Dakota Baker
Michael Bentley
Scott Cooper, II
Kasie Salzman
Charlie Valone

Erie County
Newstead Fire Company, Inc.
Michael Anthony James
South Line Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.
Jessica L. Beutler

Genesee County
Pembroke Volunteer Fire Company
Autumn Waff

Monroe County
Pittsford Explorer Post 595
Robert Gerald Glenning

Nassau County
Mineola Fire Department
Nicholas Aidan Paternostro

Oneida County
Stittsville Fire Department, Inc.
William Michael Bryant

Onondaga County
Lyncourt Volunteer Fire Department
Michael John Cinino

Oswego County
Oswego Town Volunteer Fire Department
Ryan Whitcomb

Otsego County
Richfield Springs Fire Department
Christian Thomas Brashear

Saratoga County
Eagle-Matt Lee Fire Company No. 1
Lacey Garin-Mae Haviland

Suffolk County
Rocky Point Fire Department
John McCarrick
Sayville Volunteer Fire Department
Jordon Butler
Robert Giacoia
Jacob Minerva
Joshua Minerva
Aidan Rueb
St. James Fire Department
Jack Amato
Lily Amato
Rachel Amato
Brendan Carroll
Owen Carroll
Noah Evans
Joseph Falzona
Liam Gaine
Christine Gannon
Matthew Gannon
Lillian Grayson
Megan Leudesdorf
Alex Martin
Giuseppe Mussumeci
Brandon Perrotta
Christopher Perrotta
Olivia Peterson
Hailee Rannazzisi
Emma Schor
Jake Wallasch

Westchester County
Somers Volunteer Fire Department
Alexandre Lupetin
FIRE DEPARTMENT 100-YEAR CERTIFICATES

Presented during the month of February, 2017

Cayuga County
King Ferry Fire Department 100 years

Presented during the month of March, 2017

Rensselaer County
Valley Falls Fire Company 100 years

Ulster County
Pioneer Engine Company No. 1 160 years

Presented during the month of April, 2013*

North Syracuse Volunteer Fire Department 100 years

* Previously omitted from The Volunteer Firefighter magazine

FASNY awards certificates to volunteer firefighters who have achieved 50 years in the volunteer fire service and also commemorates volunteer fire departments with 100 or more years of service to their communities. The certificates are issued by the Association Secretary and can be presented by a FASNY official upon request. There is no cost of any kind to the department or to the recipient.

The Volunteer Firefighter will run photos of presentations, space and quality of photo permitting. Please submit photos to photos@fasny.com within five days of the month the award is presented as the names must remain consistent with those listed in the current 50- and 100-year column.
I HATE TO INTERRUPT THIS CIVIL DISCUSSION ABOUT TACTICS, BUT AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE FIGHTING ME?!