

2024 Board of Director Officer Election
Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2024 Board of Directors Meeting
January 11, 2024

2024 Board of Directors:

President Fiona Witkowski (FW)	Present	Director Robert Franz (RF)	Present
Vice President Seth Fischer (SF)	Present	Director Eric Kramer (EK)	Present via phone
Secretary Brian Canty (BC)	Present	Director Lehti Laas (LL)	Present via phone
Treasurer James Mallilo (JM)	Present	Director	
Chief William Connolly (WC)	Present		

Guests: Melissa Anastos, Christian Cabellaro, Lily Poplawski, Noah Ramos, John Stevens, Andrew Taylor (18:30), Sean Moran (18:30), Grant Werner (18:50), Matt Philips (19:00)

Meeting called to order at: 18:06 hours

For disposition of new members see the Secretary's Report.

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Chief William Connolly to approve the minutes of December 18, 2023 **MOTION APPROVED** (FW,SF,BC,JM,WC,LL,EK)
.....Abstention - RF

Proposals-

Proposed SOP Change 04-2023
Life Membership on 13 members
3 on a 16 Raffle Gift Cards
Attend The Long Island Metro Fire/EMS Expo
Super Bowl Sunday Food Allowance
Raffle foosball table at the February GMM
Raffle old television from the Ready Room at the February GMM
Banking Resolutions
FUOCO Group 2023 Audit contract
Explorer Post 215 Chief Advisor Appointment
Explorer Post 215 Associate Advisors, Committee Members & Adult Leaders Appointments for 2024
Explorer Post 215 Renewal 2024 year
Attend the 2024 NYSVA&RA Board Meetings
Budget for 2024 Fund Drive (ZacMel Graphics)
New York State M/WBE Policy
Michael Moccaldi Lead Medic
Alex Mullin District Paramedic
Fuoco Group 2022 Audit HCAD
Fuoco Group 2022 Audit HCFAS
Fuoco Group 2022 Form 990
Amend Social Media
Amend Street Sign

Proposed SOP Change 04-2023 – Increase the Holiday Food Budget

Motion by Chief Connolly and seconded by Vice President Fischer to pass SOP change 04-2023. The SOP was printed in the April 2022 Pulse and read at the April 2022 and January 2024 and read at the January 8, 2024 General Membership Meeting, as amended.

Proposed SOP Change - 04-2023

Proposal:

To change the current holiday budget to account for current inflation rates and rise in membership/crews.

Background/Justification:

The current SOP for Holiday Budget does not reflect the current costs regarding inflation, as well as accumulating up to 3 full crews coming in for a holiday shift.

Change (additions are underlined and deletions are stricken):

Article X, Section 1, Paragraph 12 – Holidays

Being a twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week, three hundred and sixty-five day a year operation, there will be times when crews will be required to be on-duty during holidays. In an effort to make those holidays a little more enjoyable the Squad Chief is authorized to spend an amount not to exceed ~~\$500.00~~ 800.00 for food and refreshments on each pre-approved holiday. The pre-approved holidays to which this authorization applies are:

New Year's Eve Day New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Day Easter Sunday
Memorial Day Labor Day
Independence Day Christmas Eve Day
Thanksgiving Day Christmas Day

Discussions Held in Open Forum – Members voted by hand count

Consensus vote on proposed SOP change #02-2024: Majority Yes 7 No

Discussion regarding the amount of the increase. The Board approved the increase as amended to \$650.00

2/3 vote required MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Confer Life Membership on 13 members who have maintained active membership for 25 years

Motion by President Witkowski and seconded by Vice President Fischer to grant a change of Membership classification from 20-Year Exempt Membership to Life Membership for the thirteen members who currently meet the criteria of 25 years of Active service to the organization, according to Article III Section 6 of the Bylaws:

Eric Autz; Nancy Barker; Kathi Bonessi; Gilda (Jill) Decker; Kathy Hayes; Lehti Laas; Ann Maloney; Robin Smiles; Karen Sprague-Wong; Casey Stone; Christine Tedone; Claire Tesoriero; Laura Treulich.

No funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

3 on a 16 Raffle Gift Cards

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Vice President Fischer to authorize the Chief or his designee to purchase twenty-four (2 per month) x \$25 - dollar gift cards to be given out each month to the "3 on a 16" raffle winner. EMS personnel to be tabulated by the Chief Dispatcher and each monthly winner to be picked by the Chief.

HCAD FUNDS..... MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Attend The Long Island Metro Fire/EMS Expo

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Vice President Fischer to authorize payment of admission fees for members and Explorer Post Members to attend the The Long Island Metro Fire/EMS Expo at Nassau Coliseum from February 2-4, 2024 at a cost of \$25 per person per day. The Long Island Metro Fire/EMS Expo will feature vendor displays, as well as nine 90-minute educational seminars for fire and EMS first responders of all ranks. Certified EMS providers can earn CEUs for attending designated seminars. Maximum of \$25.00 per member, at a cost NTE \$25.00 per member. Parking is free at this event.

HCAD Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Information about event: <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/liexpo>

Super Bowl Sunday Food Allowance

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Vice President Fischer to allow the Sunday Captain to purchase food for crew members to watch the Super Bowl at headquarters on 2/11/2024 at a cost not to exceed \$350.00. Itemized receipts and any funds left over are to be returned to the treasurer within 10 days after the event.

HCFAS Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to raffle foosball table at the February GMM

Motion by Vice President Fischer and seconded by RF to dispose of the foosball table by raffle at the February General Membership Meeting. The winning member will be responsible for removing this piece of equipment from the Squad within one week of the meeting. A notice will go out to the membership via email and The Pulse regarding this raffle.

No funds..... MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to raffle old television from the Ready Room at the February GMM

Motion by Vice President Fischer and seconded by RF to dispose of the television from the Ready Room by raffle at the February General Membership Meeting. This television is now 10 years old and outdated. The winning member will be responsible for removing this piece of equipment from the Squad within one week of the meeting. A notice will go out to the membership via email and The Pulse regarding this raffle.

No funds..... MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Banking Resolutions

Motion by James Mallilo and seconded by Fiona Witkowski to approve the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer to execute the required banking resolutions with HCFAS's designated banks. The resolutions shall specify that all withdrawals (payment orders, wire transfers, etc.) and borrowing will require the authorized signatures of any two corporate officers listed above, except that only one authorized signature will be required for transfers

from one HCFAS bank account to another HCFAS bank account within the same bank.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

FUOCO Group 2023 Audit contract

Motion by James Mallilo and seconded by Vice President Fischer to authorize and approve President Witkowski to sign engagement letters with Fuoco Group of Hauppauge, NY, for auditing services and preparation of tax documents for HCFAS Inc. for calendar year 2023. Cost NTE \$14,250.00

HCFAS funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion by James Mallilo and seconded by Vice President Fischer to authorize and approve President Witkowski to sign engagement letters with Fuoco Group of Hauppauge, NY, for auditing services and preparation of Tax documents for HCFAS Inc. and form 990 for calendar year 2023. Cost NTE \$4,750.00.

HCFAS funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

[Refer to paperwork sent by the Treasurer.]

Explorer Post 215 Chief Advisor Appointment

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Vice President Fischer to approve President Fiona Witkowski appointment of Susan Otto as Chief Advisor effective January 1, 2024 in accordance with Post 215 Standard Operating Procedures Article II, Section 1. *2/3 vote required.* **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Explorer Post 215 Associate Advisors, Committee Members and Adult Leaders Appointments for 2024

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Vice President Fischer to approve Post Chief Advisor Susan Otto's appointment of the below listed associate advisors, committee members and adult leaders effective January 1, 2024 in accordance with Post 215 Standard Operating Procedures Article II, Section 2. *2/3 vote required.*

Explorer Post Advisor Susan Otto

Associate Advisor

Dale Bartolomeo

Kevin McCann

Ann Maloney - Not registered as of this motion

Post Committee Chairman Brian Canty

Post Committee Member

Kathi Bonessi

Margaret Callinan

2/3 Vote Required MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Explorer Post 215 Renewal 2024 year

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Vice President Fischer to authorize the President to renew the annual memorandum of understanding for HCFAS participation in the Learning for Life Exploring Program for Post 215 effective January 1, 2024 in accordance with HCFAS By-Laws Article III, Section 7. Further, to approve the dues payment of \$50.00 for each of the 27 youth participants as listed below and 7 registered adult participants, the payment of \$12 per Adult and Youth Participant for Council Fee, a Administrative fee of \$64.38 and the annual Charter fee of \$100.00.

POST 215 and HCAD Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**Youth Participants**

Alexander	Atkin	Laura	Lobos
Anastasia	Brathwaite Williams	Aria	Mannering
Ella	Brenner	Kaelin	McCaffrey
Adeline	Chunton	Kylie	McCaffrey
Jessica	Dean	Kayla	McCann
Noor	Elfeky	Tamia	McKay
Jayden	Feliciano	Steven	Mejia
Justin	Feliciano	Kate	Nicastro
Rachel	Flores lobos	Chloe	Prangenberg
Sarah	Fox	Isabella	Ramos
Michael James	Gallagher	Lillian	Serpe
Nina	Gonzalez	Rebecca	Stone
Jeremyah	Leiva	Nolan	Surbeck
Christopher	Leslie		

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Attend the 2024 NYSVA&RA Board Meetings

Motion by Robert Franz and seconded by Vice President Fischer to authorize and approve NYSVA&RA District 7 Delegate and Alternate Delegate to attend the NYSVA&RA Board meetings in 2024 near Albany, NY (or other location) on dates TBD. Further to authorize and approve the use of a Squad vehicle (with more than one driver) at the discretion of the Chief or mileage reimbursement for one personal vehicle, plus tolls and parking, the reimbursement of hotel accommodations on the evening before the meetings or night of the meetings at an amount not to exceed a base room rate of \$135.00 per person and the payment on the day before the meetings or the day after the meetings and the day of the meetings of the GSA per diem rate for meals and incidentals (current Albany rate is \$69.00 per day) less 25% for travel days. The NYS exempt organization sales tax certificates must be obtained from the Treasurer and used where applicable. Original receipts must be provided as applicable within ten days of this event and the Treasurer will provide the BOD an accounting of this event at the next Board meeting immediately following the request for reimbursement for the event. Delegate and 1st Alternate Delegate are authorized to extend an invitation to other NYSVA&RA delegates, officers or members and other VAS or FD members to ride in an authorized Squad vehicle or personal vehicle to attend this event provided there is adequate room to accommodate them. Further, Delegate and 1st Alternate are authorized and approved to attend other board meetings in accordance with the above and the BOD will be informed in advance of these meetings.

HCAD Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**Budget for 2024 Fund Drive (ZacMel Graphics)**

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Vice President Fischer to authorize the Fund Drive Chairpersons Mary Brenner & Joan Florio to establish a Fund Drive budget for 2024. The budget for the development and production of the Fund Drive for 2024 would be produced by David S. Warheit of ZacMel Graphics, LLC. The budget would include the following items listed below: Total is cost for the development and execution of the fund drive is \$13,185.55 In order to absorb any postage increases, the cost for this motion will not exceed \$14,000.

HCFAS Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

New York State M/WBE Policy

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty and seconded by Robert Franz to authorize the Board Officers to sign the board resolution of the Huntington Community First Aid Squad, Inc. acknowledging adoption of the New York State M/WBE Policy and appointment of Louis Dell, Grant Chairperson as Compliance Officer effective January 11, 2024.

..... MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

These Motions were made after executive session:

Michael Moccaldi Lead Medic

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Fiona Witkowski to change Michael Moccaldi's position from district paramedic to lead paramedic effective January 14, 2024

HCAD funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Alex Mullin District Paramedic

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Fiona Witkowski to change to change Alex Mullin's position from lead paramedic to district paramedic effective January 14, 2024

HCAD funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Fuoco Group 2022 Audit HCAD

Motion by James Mallilo and seconded by Vice President Seth Fischer to engage the services of the Fuoco Group for the purpose of the 2022 audit as outlined in their letter of engagement for the Huntington Community Ambulance District Division of Huntington Community First Aid Squad, Inc. dated February 3, 2023 distributed as provided by Anthony V. Passudetti, CPA, Director, Fuoco Group. The estimated fee for the service is \$8,500.00. A retainer of \$2,500 will be paid upon the signing of the engagement letter by President Fiona Witkowski **Nunc Pro Tunc.**

HCAD Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Fuoco Group 2022 Audit HCFAS

Motion by James Mallilo and seconded by Vice President Seth Fischer to engage the services of the Fuoco Group for the purpose of the 2022 audit as outlined in their letter of engagement for the Huntington Community First Aid Squad, Inc. dated February 3, 2023 distributed as provided by Anthony V. Passudetti, CPA, Director, Fuoco Group. The estimated fee for the service is \$8,500.00. A retainer of \$2,500 will be paid upon the signing of the engagement letter by President Fiona Witkowski **Nunc Pro Tunc.**

HCFAS Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Fuoco Group 2022 Form 990

Motion by James Mallilo and seconded by Vice President Seth Fischer to engage the services of the Fuoco Group for the purpose of the 2022 preparation of Form 990 and supporting schedules (Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) as outlined in their letter of engagement for the Huntington Community First Aid Squad, Inc. dated February 2, 2023 distributed as provided by Anthony V. Passudetti, CPA, Director, Fuoco Group. The estimated fee for the service is \$2,000.00. The engagement letter will be signed by Fiona Witkowski **Nunc Pro Tunc.**

HCAD Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Social Media Marketing - Facebook and Instagram motion from 10/12/2023 (Amend)

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Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Seth Fisher to amend the Social Media Marketing motion from 10/12/2023 (see below) to extend it from 1/31/2024 to an end date of 2/28/2024. No additional funds will be needed for this date extension.

..... **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

October 12, 2023 BOD Meeting Motion:

Social Media Marketing - Facebook and Instagram

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Chief William Connolly to advertise the corporation on social media platforms for the purpose of HCFAS volunteer recruitment. \$100 will be spent weekly between Facebook and Instagram until January 31, 2024. The recruitment committee will decide the advertisement with the assistance of the HCFAS PIO, Ex-Chief Andrea Golinsky. The advertisement will be reviewed by the BOD for comment. Total cost not to exceed \$1600.

HCFAS FUNDS

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Recruitment Street Signs (Amended)

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Seth Fischer to amend the Recruitment Street Signs motion from 10/12/2023 (see below) to increase the total street signs to 14 at \$550.00 each/sign. Total cost will increase, NTE \$7800.00

HCFAS Funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

October 12, 2023 BOD Meeting Motion:

Recruitment Street Signs

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Chief William Connolly to market HCFAS for the purposes of volunteer recruitment by purchasing up to 8 banners (~\$200 each). The recruitment committee will decide on the wording and images on the banners with the assistance of the HCFAS PIO, Ex-Chief Andrea Golinsky and Chief Connolly. The banners will be placed throughout the Town of Huntington. Ex-Chief Golinsky will be overseeing this project and has already been in contact with the Town of Huntington for potential placement sites. The signs will be reviewed by the BOD for comment. Total cost not to exceed \$1600.

HCFAS Funds

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer's Report – James Malillo

Unable to give a report due to ongoing software issues. Issues were resolved this afternoon.

Chief Report BOD Meeting 1/11/2024

Equipment & Vehicles –

16: In quarters.

17: In quarters.

18: In quarters

19: In quarters.

20: In quarters.

21: In quarters.

80: In quarters

81: In quarters.

82: In quarters.

88: In quarters

89: In quarters

All ambulances and fly cars are being audited by operations for BLS and ALS meds and materials.

Paramedic Program

See attached documents

Mike Moccaldi: Resume

Lead Medic Interview Process

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Equipment: a brochure for VendNovation: Vending machine for ALS & BLS supplies, was distributed to the Board of Directors.

Events/Projects Martin Luther King Day, January 15,2024; Super Bowl Sunday February 11,2024

Trainings: January training must be completed by Feb 1, 2024.

President Witkowski asked the status of the check out software, Chief stated that there were some issues and they are looking at different software.

President Witkowski about the new paramedic vehicle, new vehicle committee was not spoken to about starting the process. The Chief will contact New Vehicle committee to get this started.

Status Change/Advancement						
Member #	Last Name	First Name	Day & Shift	From	To	Effective
1280	Bartolomeo	Dale	Company 8	Dr/Cl	DR only	1/1/2024
1700	Beck	Heleen	Monday 1900	FA	DR TR	1/11/2024
1700	Beck	Heleen	Monday 1900	FA	ACL	1/2/2024
1568	Curry	Benjamin	Saturday 1900	ACL	CL	12/30/2023
1224	Gabriel	Rodriguens	Monday 1500	FA	DR TR	1/11/2024
1715	Polster	Max	Wednesday 0700	Disp TR	Disp	11/22/2023
POST 215						
Member #	Last Name	First Name	Day & Shift	From	To	Effective
500232	Ramos	Isabella	Saturday 1500	Post215	Post215/Disp Tr	12/2/2023

Shift Change						
Member #	Last Name	First Name	From	To	Effective	Reason
1563	Bernfeld	Elizabeth	Thursday 0700	Thursday 1900	12/12/2023	work
1447	Capotosto	Mike	Sunday 1100	Sat 2300	12/1/2023	work/personal
1616	Poplawski	Lily	Sunday 1900	Company 8	12/12/2023	work schedule

Secretary's Report - Brian Canty

New members

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Chief Connolly to accept as a new probationary member Guy Garizio in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the bylaws. (#1720)
Shift - Wednesday 0700

..... **MOTION APPROVED** (FW,SF,BC,JM,WC,LL,EK)
.....Abstention - RF

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Chief Connolly to accept as a new probationary
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member Chelsea Keatley in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the bylaws. (#1721)
Shift - Friday 2300

..... **MOTION APPROVED** (FW,SF,BC,JM,WC,LL,EK)
.....Abstention – RF

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty and seconded by Chief William Connolly to grant the following Status Change: John Connors #1154–Active Operational to Associate, effective 01/01/2024.

2/3 Vote Required **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Roger Winter to grant the following Status Change: Sierra Beck #1629 – Active Operational to Resigned effective 01/01/2024.

..... **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Status Change Joseph Gander #1166 – Associate to Deceased 12/27/2023

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty and seconded by Chief William Connolly to grant the following Leaves of Absences:

Leave of Absence						
Member #	Last Name	First Name	Day & Shift	LOA Start	LOA End	Type of LOA
1708	Alnwick	Daniel	Thursday 1100	1/22/2024	5/22/2024	ELOA
1603	Bram	Jon	Thursday 1100	1/15/2024	5/15/2024	ELOA
1174	Cortes	Israel	Friday 1900	12/26/2023	3/26/2024	OLOA
1521	Cortes	Roxanne	Saturday 0700	11/16/2023	2/16/2024	MLOA
1460	Donegan	Kathryn	Wednesday 1900	11/1/2023	2/1/2024	OLOA
1546	Dowler	Brett	Thursday 0700	1/11/2024	5/31/2024	ELOA
1583	Gore	Shannon	Company 8	11/13/2023	11/29/2023	EMLOA
1304	Grant	Joseph	Company 8	7/15/2023	10/15/2023	OLOA
1576	Hastava	Alex	Company 8	10/25/2023	1/25/2024	OLOA
1640	Kata	Grace	Monday 1100	1/8/2024	5/6/2024	ELOA
1390	Kaufman	David	Thursday 1900	1/11/2024	4/11/2024	OLOA
1651	Kelly	Bronwyn	Thursday 1100	1/18/2024	5/23/2024	ELOA
1604	McCormack	Casey	Thursday 2300	1/22/2024	5/10/2024	ELOA
1679	Naeaetsaari	Veera	Thursday 1900	1/8/2024	5/12/2024	ELOA
1643	Terenzi	Jaimie	Thursday 1900	11/28/2023	2/28/2024	EMLOA
1259	White	Tiffany	Wednesday 1500	12/7/2023	3/7/2024	EMLOA

..... **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty and seconded by Chief William Connolly to grant the following Leave of Absence:

1571	Farina-Ehlers	Vera	Company 8	9/6/2023	1/1/2024	OLOA
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..... **YES** (WC,LL,EK)

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..... **NO** (FW,SF,BC,JM,RF)

..... **MOTION DENIED**

Return to Duty						
Member #	Last Name	First Name	Day & Shift	LOA End	Type of LOA	RTD Date
1623	Costa	Juliet	Monday 0700	12/18/2023	ELOA	12/25/2023
1546	Dowler	Brett	Thursday 0700	12/18/2023	ELOA	12/28/2023
1583	Gore	Shannon	Company 8	11/29/2023	EMLOA	11/29/2023
1640	Kata	Grace	Monday 1100	12/18/2023	ELOA	12/18/2023
1701	Julianna	Lewandowski	Monday 1500	12/16/2023	ELOA	12/18/2023
1607	Rosselli	Kathleen	Monday 0700	12/15/2023	ELOA	12/18/2023

Director Bob Franz Report –01/11/24

Legislation

Intro. Res. No. 1846-2023 was adopted by the SC Legislature on December 19, 2023

Repeals SC Code, Exemption for VFF and VAW adopted in March 11, 2003 and replaces it with a new Code Section 775-40 which brings the 10% property tax exemption in conformity with the newly enacted State law , Section 466-a of the RPTL, so that VFF and VAW may continue the benefits of the exemption. Further, it changes the eligibility from 5 years to 2 years as an enrolled member of the VFD or VAS. (Thank you to SC Legislators Tom Donnelly and Stephanie Bontempi for sponsoring the resolution).

The deadline for all municipalities to adopt a resolution from the old to the new law must be done by December 9, 2025. I have not heard or seen anything from the SHUFSD or HUFSD. If anyone sees or hears anything, please let me know. Earlier adoption by school districts with the 2 year option would allow some members who own property in the district to qualify for the exemption.

Bill # S7242A (Martinez) / A07613 (Stern) This bill provides members employed as an emergency medical technician, critical care technician, advanced emergency medical technician, paramedic or supervisor of such titles in a participating Suffolk county fire district with the eligibility to retire upon the completion of twenty-five years of total creditable service. This bill was signed into law by Governor Hochul on December 8, 2023.

Nassau / Suffolk Legislative Committee meeting

Notice in Fire News January 2024 issue for an urgent meeting on Wednesday February 28, 2024 at 7PM by The Nassau / Suffolk Legislative Committee for a frank discussion on the future of Ambulance Service in Fire & EMS. The meeting is being held at the South Country Ambulance Company.

Governor's State of State Address and pending budget -NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association DRAFT Comments

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On January 9, 2024, Governor Hochul delivered her State of State Address. This annual address allows the Governor to preview the priorities that will be further detailed when the Governor's Executive Budget is released later this month. For the third year in a row the Governor has included a section on emergency medical services. This section includes four EMS topics:

- * Making EMS an "Essential Service"
- * Establishing statewide EMS supplementation task forces
- * Establishing a Rural Paramedic Telemedicine Urgent Care Program
- * Permitting EMS providers to provide care in the community during non-emergent situations

These programs are not yet defined beyond the few sentences listed below. We are of course grateful that the Governor has called for EM to be an Essential Service. NYSVARA and our advocacy partners have been encouraging the Governor be a leader on Essential Service. The details matter and we'll see them in a few weeks. NYSVARA is already working with the legislature on Essential Service and our other public policy priorities (<https://nysvara.org/ourAgenda.html>)

Please save the evening of Tuesday, February 13th for a NYSVARA Zoom Town Hall Meeting on the NYS Executive Budget. By then we'll have the details on the Governor's proposals and the action taking place in the State Legislature. We'll be back to you with more analysis after the Executive Budget is released.

Modernize Emergency Medical Services

When a New Yorker calls an ambulance in a time of crisis, they deserve assurance that one will respond. However, because emergency medical services (EMS) are not an "essential service" under State law, this is not a guarantee. While the average response time for EMS is less than nine minutes, wait times can range wildly across the state, with some more than an hour. This is driven in part by the 9% decline in EMS agencies over the past decade and a diminished EMS workforce: the number of active EMS practitioners has declined by 18% since 2019.

_This year, Governor Hochul will advance legislation to make EMS an essential service to ensure that emergency medical service providers are required to respond to emergencies. In addition, Governor Hochul will build upon the progress made in last year's budget by directing the newly established EMS statewide taskforce to create five "EMS zones." Each zone will maintain its own EMS workforce to augment local EMS agencies where the workforce is insufficient and can be deployed to respond to emergencies statewide. Finally, Governor Hochul will establish a first-in-the-nation Paramedic Telemedicine Urgent Care program, which will use paramedics in rural areas and a healthcare provider via telemedicine to deliver low-acuity emergency services in a fixed location to decrease demands on the EMS system and reduce unnecessary ER visits.

Encourage New Care Models _

Closer to Home While some healthcare procedures and treatments require a hospital or
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emergency room setting, certain clinical services can be provided more appropriately and with better patient satisfaction in a patient's home or community. Nationwide, new care models are emerging that bring healthcare out of the hospital and into the community or a patient's home. During the pandemic, New York State authorized community paramedicine programs with 55 EMS agencies serving 40 counties providing these services. At the same time, the federal government approved the designation of 15 New York hospitals to deliver inpatient care in the homes of Medicare patients. Governor Hochul will introduce legislation to allow hospitals that meet certain requirements in New York to deliver care in patient homes as appropriate, and to permit emergency medical services providers to provide care in the community during non-emergent situations. This will reduce ER overcrowding and wait times, relieve our overburdened hospital system, and lead to better patient experiences.

Guilty Verdict

As Eric pointed out in an email, please read the following excerpt and be mindful of the ramifications:

The two Colorado paramedics on trial for homicide in the death of Elijah McClain have been found GUILTY on some of the criminal counts that were filed against them. Both were found guilty of negligent homicide, and one was found guilty of second-degree assault. The two had been charged with reckless manslaughter, negligent homicide, and assault.

A conviction in this case is sending shock waves through the EMS community in the United States. There are major lessons to be learned for EMS practitioners and EMS leaders throughout the country. The prosecution brought this case and obtained a conviction. In addition, there was a separate lawsuit in which Mr. McClain's family was paid \$15 million in a civil settlement. This case has significant ramifications in many areas, including recruitment and retention, how EMS interacts with law enforcement on a scene, the role of protocols, the necessity of a foundational patient assessment, the prehospital use of ketamine, and many other critical clinical and operational issues that were litigated in this trial.

Final Rule Issued on Classifying Employees and Independent Contractors Under the Federal FLSA

On January 9, 2024, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the issuance of a final rule that is intended to help employers analyze whether a worker is an employee or an independent contractor under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The final rule is expected to be published in the Federal Register on January 10, 2024.

The final rule will become effective March 11, 2024. It rescinds the DOL's 2021 guidance (where two core factors, control over the work and opportunity for profit or loss, carried greater weight in determining independent contractor status), and replaces it with an analysis for determining employee or independent contractor status that the DOL believes is more consistent with the FLSA.

The new test utilizes a totality-of-the-circumstances analysis utilizing six factors which are all to be given equivalent weight. These "economic reality factors" include:

* Opportunity for profit or loss depending on managerial skill.

- * Investments by the worker and the employer.
- * The degree of permanence of the work relationship.
- * The nature and degree of control.
- * The extent to which the work performed is an integral part of the potential employer's business.
- * The amount of skill and initiative required for the work.

Director Laas Report

Recruitment:

-Print Advertising: In November the print advertisements were approved by the Board and were featured in The Long Islander, The Hometown Shopper and Newsday as dual recruitment and Veterans Day ads. I wanted to give those print ads independent time to see results. I received 3 phone calls and spoke to the 3 prospective applicants. I need to ask the committee who applied after the print ads via the website directly.

-Social Media Advertising: We let Thanksgiving pass and in December we did our first social media advertising on facebook and Instagram. I logged in overseas to continue the advertising but was locked out by facebook given my location. It took me a few weeks to get back on. Facebook wanted me to log back in on a specific computer that took me a bit to figure out which one it was. Michelle Franco gave me a summary of that advertising that I will send out more info to the Board on. We are looking to continue the social media advertising in 2024. I will make a motion at our next meeting.

- Street Signs: In December I sent the Board 3 street sign options. This was sent twice. We received 5 comments and I forwarded the committee all the comments without the Board members name attached. They have made changes and are ready to proceed with printing the street signs.

Michelle Franco reached out to Brian Canty for help with purchasing/placement of the street signs. Thankfully he agreed to help and got in touch with the fire department. We need to amend the previous motion that was made on 10/12/2023 as we did not price out the proper material that is needed.

Membership:

-The committee has forwarded me some information that I will forward to the BOD:

- Flowsheet of applicants
- Shifts that have no openings

Physicals: I was informed that Angie K. resigned from the medical committee.

Old Business:

Lehti Laas amendments to motions for social media and signs.

New Business:

President Witkowski:

Proposed the following dates for the next five months of BOD meetings –

February 22, March 21, April 18, May 23 and June 20 at 7pm.

Asked Board members to considers for next month Goals for 2024

Discussed attendance of Directors at General Membership Meetings. A comment was made at the GMM regarding attendance of officers at GMM. Discussion by board members.

Motion by Brian Canty second by Fiona Witkowski to enter into executive session at 19:09
.....**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Out of Executive Session at 20:18

Vice President Seth Fischer had a question on email motions and what is to be considered to be a motion to be voted on, President Fiona Witkowski will develop a list of motions that come up on a yearly basis and figure out which ones we can approve by email votes and which needs discussion.

Secretary Brian Canty suggested an online workshop to just discuss motions and get the consensus of how people will vote.

Motion by Vice President Seth Fischer and seconded by Chief William Connolly to adjourn the meeting at 2028 hours.

.....**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Canty
Secretary

Draft sent to Board members: XXXXXXXX

Amended and approved: XXXXXXXXX
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY