

2024 Board of Directors Meeting
Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2024 Board of Directors Meeting
March 21, 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)	ABSENT
Secretary Brian Canty (BC)	Present	Director Lehti Laas (LL)	Present
Treasurer James Mallilo (JM)	Present	Director Betty Wood (BW)	Present
Chief William Connolly (WC)	ABSENT		

Guests: Mary Winter, Roger Winter, Third Deputy Chief Stevens

Meeting called to order at: 19:03 hours.

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Seth Fischer to approve the minutes of February 22, 2024 as amended**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Robert Franz to approve the minutes of September 14, 2023**MOTION APPROVED** (FW,JM,RF,LL)
..... No Vote – BC, SF, BW

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

Proposals-

Purchase the SCM voting module

Use of the General Meeting Room

Pay paramedics/employees for unused sick time

METS Game 2024

Members Attendance at NYS EMS Memorial Ceremony in Albany

EMS Memorial Hotel/M meal Per Diem for Tuesday 5/21/24

Legislation Letters of Support

Investments

Motion to purchase the SCM voting module

Motion by Fiona Witkowski seconded by Jim Mallilo to purchase the SCM Voting module (\$2,995.00); training (\$1,995.00) with an additional mobile Finger Reader (\$2,245.00).

The mobile finger reader will enable to take attendance offsite, for any event not at HCFAS. The data will be synced when the mobile unit is back at HQ. This will also speed up on-site voting.

This new voting module will enable HCFAS to electronically record our general election, special election(s), votes by membership for a consensus vote on SOP changes, Bylaw changes and any other type of vote.

When a voting ballot is created 3 officers from the board should visually inspect and approve the ballot, the Secretary, President and either the Vice President or Treasurer.

Once voting starts, no one in HCFAS has the ability to observe the vote count, that is only possible when voting has officially ended. Members can only vote once. Once submitted the vote counts and cannot be recalled. If a person attempts to vote for more candidate, eg. 8 Captains for 7 positions, the system will indicate an error and the voter must correct.

Write-ins are allowable, but only members of the organization are available for write ins.

Installation and training not to exceed \$4,990.00. An SCM representative will provide onsite training on creating the ballot, running the reports and if necessary be present during the vote (preferably the general election).

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This is not on state contract, as SCM is the sole source vendor for this option.
Installation and training \$4,990.00; Mobile Finger Reader Unit \$2,245.00. Total \$7,235.00

Note: The current voting system, used at the annual Squad election, costs \$2,250.00 per year, with an additional charge if there is a voting rep on site.

HCAD Funds **Motion Denied** (SF,RF,BW,LL, BC)
..... No Vote – JM

Use of the General Meeting Room- Saturday May 18, 2024 – Mark Brenner #449

Motion by Secretary Brian Cauty and seconded by Fiona Witkowski to permit Mark Brenner #449, the use of the General Membership Meeting Room in accordance with the HCFAS General Meeting Room Use Application and Rules to conduct a One Hundredth birthday celebration for Mary Brenner #487 on Saturday May 18, 2024 from 3PM to 7PM. Set-up will be on Saturday May 18, 2024 from 4 PM to 6 PM and cleanup will be after the event. A security deposit of \$100 was received and the \$400 balance must be received prior to the event. A copy of a bartender's TIPS certification must be submitted since alcohol will be served. Food service will be by the member. The member must submit a certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 with Huntington Community First Aid Squad named as an additional insured which must include liquor law legal liability coverage. An insurance certificate with Huntington Community First Aid Squad named as additional insured and a vendor hold harmless agreement are required from the DJ for this event. Approval is pending the receipt 30 days prior to the event, of the acceptable certificate(s) of insurance, vendor hold harmless agreement, TIPS certificate and security deposit balance. The member is responsible for contacting the President or Chief in a timely manner for pre and post inspections of the room. The calendar has no events scheduled for this date and time.

No funds **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion to pay paramedics/employees for unused sick time

Motion by Treasurer Jim Mallilo seconded by President Fiona Witkowski to pay our paramedics/employees out on the last pay period of the year for all earned and unused sick time accrued in that current calendar year.

Rationale:

1. If not paid out expect paramedics/employees to use or consume that sick time in the course of the current year. This will leave HCFAS more unassigned paramedic shifts.
2. This disbursement of funds would be in lieu of a holiday bonus.
3. Every paramedic/employee who worked a minimum of 30 hours would receive 1 hour holiday bonus. The maximum payout would be 40 hours, the maximum amount earned as required by NYS law.
4. If not paid out, HCFAS is required to roll over unused sick time into the next fiscal year. The paramedics/employees may only take 40 hours maximum leave.
5. This would provide an incentive for our paramedics/employees to remain working and use sick time when needed.
6. This payout of sick time may be a benefit for more paramedics/employees to work for HCFAS.

Questions concerning the NYS requirements? See the following link.

<https://www.ny.gov/programs/new-york-paid-sick-leave>

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A lengthy discussion transpired. Third Deputy Stevens agreed to send Director Betty Wood the Policy that CI-Hauppage uses.

A Policy needs to be established before we can institute this.

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty seconded by Vice President Seth Fischer to table the motion:

No fundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

METS Game 2024

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Seth Fischer to attend a METS vs San Francisco Giants game on Fri, May 24, 7:10 PM at a group purchase of a minimum of 25 tickets at a cost of \$45.00 per seat for field level seats or equal value for members and guest(s) wishing to attend this game. Bus transportation to and from CitiField will be requested to Mr. Paul Mori at Huntington Coach. Non-member guests attending with the member must pay \$48.00 for their ticket. In addition, each Squad member signing up for this event must give the event coordinator Brian Canty a \$48.00 check covering their cost and a separate check for guest(s). Squad members who attend will receive their check back. Each member is responsible to transfer their ticket to another squad member or member guest after they have submitted their deposit and can no longer attend. Members who have submitted checks and do not attend will have their checks deposited. Members must submit their checks to secure their tickets.

Cost breakdown as follows:

Tickets: \$1,125.00

Processing fee: \$ 25.00

Parking for bus \$ 150.00

Bus driver tip: \$ 100.00

Total: \$1,400.00

HCFAS FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Members Attendance at NYS EMS Memorial Ceremony in Albany Wednesday 5/22/24

Motion by Robert Franz and seconded by Lehti Laas to accept the recommendation of Andrea Golinsky, the Squad's primary delegate to NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association District 7, and to approve interested Squad members, not to exceed ten members total, to attend the NYS EMS Memorial Ceremony in Albany, New York on Wednesday May 22, 2024 at 11AM or alternate date and time. Further to authorize the use of two Squad vehicles, each with more than one driver, at the discretion of the Chief and approve mileage reimbursement for personal vehicles as authorized by the Chief, plus tolls and parking for all vehicles. A signup sheet will be posted by Andrea to determine the number of members wishing to attend. The Chief and Andrea will determine the members who will be approved to attend this memorial ceremony. The NYS exempt organization sales certificate must be obtained from the Treasurer and used where applicable. Each attendee will receive the GSA per diem rate for meals and incidentals of \$51.75 (\$69.00 less 25%). Each attendee must submit an accounting of his expenditures for this event, including all original receipts, as applicable, within 10 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. Andrea is authorized to extend an invitation to other NYSVA&RA delegates, officers, or members of other VAS or Fire Departments or her spouse to ride in an authorized Squad vehicle or personal vehicle to attend this event providing there is adequate room to accommodate them.

HCAD Funds.....MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Hotel/M meal Per Diem for Tuesday 5/21/24

Motion by Robert Franz and seconded by Lehti Laas to authorize and approve the reimbursement of hotel accommodations on Monday May 21, 2024 at an amount not to exceed a base room rate of \$135.00 per person, double occupancy required if possible, or a member requesting single occupancy paying the incremental supplement, and the reimbursement on May 21, 2024 of the GSA per diem rate for meals and incidentals of \$51.75 (\$69.00 per person per day less 25%) for travel on that Tuesday for

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attendees of the NYS EMS Memorial Ceremony in Albany, NY. This will be limited to up to 3 hotel rooms.

HCAD Funds.....MOTION APPROVED (SF,JM,RF,LL,BW)
..... No Vote – BC

The following motions were after executive Session

Legislation Letters of Support

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty seconded by Treasurer James Mallilo to allow the legislative committee and the President to send out letters of support on our behalf to not sunset the EMT-CC program and any other pertinent EMS related legislation.

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

Investments

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty seconded by Treasurer James Mallilo to authorize our finance committee chairman to invest cash funds in the HCFAS investment account in 3-month T-Bills.

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

Treasurer's Report – James Mallilo

HCAD CDJ Distributed

Chief Report – William Connolly

Lead Medic Report - Michael Moccaldi

We've had consistent coverage for all shifts with the exception of the following days:

Sunday 1500-2300

Saturdays 0700-0700 depending on the day.

There have been sporadic openings during the week, but nothing consistent.

2 medics have been added to the roster:

Demi Geraghty

Jonathan Gorst

Both have been properly in serviced, and are picking up shifts where available.

I have another medic Ray Langer, who has completed the interview process and will be presented for hiring approval.

In an effort to streamline the hiring process I have been in contact and am working with Chief Como to come up with an official policy to interview and vet applicants to shorten the waiting period between application to hire date. Chief Como can advise on the progress of that.

There has been some inquiries as to the sick leave process and accrual which has been addressed. There is also some questions as to why the staff hasn't had any sick leave accrued

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in 2022 or 2023 as per NYS Labor Laws.

The medical directors have begun to implement QA/QI process of the medics which has proven to be extremely beneficial to the mission on objectives of the medic program.

In an effort to build on the progress of our program, I have been working with Chief Stevens as well as the medical directors to set up an RSI certification class to get our medics certified to perform this skill. We would need approval for the Squad to approve to sponsor a difficult airway class in the coming months. Chief Stevens can elaborate on this request.

Secretary's Report - Brian Canty

New members

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Robert Franz to accept as a new probationary member EMT Kevin DiDonato in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the bylaws. (#1726) Shift - Sunday 1100.

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

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Robert Franz to accept as a new probationary member Matthew Murray in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the bylaws. (#1727) Shift - Wednesday 1100.

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

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Robert Franz to accept as a new probationary member (Post 215) Michael Gallagher in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the bylaws. (#1728) Shift - Wednesday 1900.

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

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Robert Franz to grant the following Status Change: Michael Mahoney #1564 – Active Operational to Resigned effective 03/10/2024.

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

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Betty Wood to grant the following Status Change: Jaclyn Rittershaus #1498 – Active Operational to Resigned effective 02/22/2024.

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

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Robert Franz to grant the following Status Change: Richard Rudolph #1083 – Active Operational to Active Administrative effective 03/18/2024.

Motion by Betty Wood seconded by Vice President Seth Fischer to table:

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

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty and seconded by Vice President Seth Fischer to grant the following Leaves of Absences:

Last Name	First Name	Member #	Day & Shift	LOA Start	LOA End	Type of LOA
Burns	Eileen	767	Sunday 0700	12/4/2024	3/1/2023	Extended Medical

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Como	Michael	1463	Saturday 1500	3/1/2024	6/1/2024	Medical
Cortes	Israel	1174	Friday 1900	3/26/2024	6/26/2024	Extended Operational
Kennedy	Bridget	1544	Friday 0700	2/24/2024	5/24/2024	Medical
Poole	Bernard	872	Tuesday 1900	2/29/2024	5/29/2024	Extended Medical
Ryga	Stephen	1704	Monday 1500	2/14/2024	5/14/2024	Extended Medical
Schaffert	Emily	1248	Wednesday 1500	3/1/2024	6/1/2024	Operational
Terenzi	Jaimie	1643	Thursday 1900	3/13/2024	6/13/2024	Medical
Velasquez	Odaly	1648	Friday 1500	2/9/2024	5/9/2024	Operational
Zeth	Steven	1602	Tuesday 0700	3/1/2024	6/1/2024	Extended Medical

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

Return to Duty						
Member #	Last Name	First Name	Day & Shift	LOA End	Type of LOA	RTD Date
767	Burns	Eileen	Sunday 0700	3/1/2023	MLOA	3/3/2024
1276	Castillo	Kathy	Friday 1900	1/7/2024	OLOA	2/2/2024
1408	Giusto	Andrew	Tuesday 1500	3/12/2024	OLOA	1/23/2024
1248	Schaffert	Emily	Wednesday 1500	2/1/2024	OLOA	2/21/2024

Director Bob Franz Report

Legislation

10% Property Tax Exemption

Bulk renewal and new applications (including two to four year enrolled members under new law) was filed with the TOH Assessor's office on February 28, 2024. Bulk Renewals – 122 members; New Applicants – 10 members.

\$200 NYS Refundable Income Tax Credit –2023 Form IT-245 is posted on the bulletin.

Notice was inserted in the Pulse. Please spread the word to eligible younger members who do not own a residence in the TOH.

2023 LOSAP Filing Date with TOH

In order to have a resolution for a 4/11 Town Board meeting, the TOH has requested receipt of the LOSAP data package by the next week rather than April 1st. The List will be filed with the Town Comptroller's Office on Monday 3/26/24. Active members earning 50 or more points in 2023 – 218 members, active members earning less than 50 points for 2023 – 82.

Insurance

Renewal General Insurance

A motion to renew our portfolio policy with VFIS is a work in progress and should be ready for the April board meeting.

MVA

2/3/24 – Ambulance was backing up in the Huntington Hospital ED bay and lightly tapped the passenger door of an unoccupied SCPD vehicle. This has been reported to our insurance carrier.

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3/3/24 -Ambulance was pulling into parking space on street and hit the front fender of an unoccupied parked car. This has been reported to our insurance carrier.
3/7/24 – Ambulance hit the motel overhang or portico while driving around the building. This has not been reported to our insurance carrier. Waiting to hear from motel management as to estimated repair cost.

Legislation / SEMSCO /SEMASC (NYSVARA Agenda – Posted):

Property Tax Exemption Law -The Town of Huntington had a hearing on March 12th to amend their code to make it applicable to HCFAS, CVAC and Fire Protection District #1. After the hearing the town board 's action was decision reserved.

Information Sessions: Several in person or virtual presentations were made on EMS legislative matters over the past month including Part V of the Governor's executive 24/25 budget. Board members should avail themselves of these information sessions.

Governor Hochul announced a new program to provide volunteer firefighter stipends for the firefighter training courses that firefighters are required to complete. Depending on the course, stipends are \$500 to \$1,250. These stipends, hopefully, will aid in the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. An amount of \$10 million has been budgeted for this item. There is no corresponding program for EMS training for Paramedics or EMTs.

SEMSCO approved the following re: "Paramedic Training Related to EMS Task Force"
To support needed growth in the EMS workforce, the Legislative Subcommittee asks SEMSCO to recommend to the Bureau of EMS that training funds be used to support and pay for the Paramedic training of a number of Paramedics equal to the number that are going to be hired by NYS to staff the new NYS EMS Task Force.
SEMSCO approved informing the Commissioner of Health that SEMSCO supports the following four legislative actions:

S5000-A4077

The Legislative Subcommittee recommends that SEMSCO communicate to the Commissioner of Health support for S5000 (May) / A4077 (Lupardo) that would remove EMS services from the real property tax cap to reduce barriers to EMS funding.

S8486 – A9102

The Legislative Subcommittee recommends that SEMSCO communicate to the Commissioner of Health support for S8486 (Hinchey) / A9102 (Kelles) that would establish a mechanism within the Medicaid Fee Schedule to provide reimbursement to EMS agencies and telemedicine providers for treatment-in-place and transport to alternate destinations.

S6630-A6274

The Legislative Subcommittee recommends that SEMSCO communicate to the Commissioner of Health support for S6630 (Mannion) / A6274 (Barrett) that allows volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to claim both state income and local property tax credits.

S7286-A7524

The Legislative Subcommittee recommends that SEMSCO communicate to the Commissioner of Health support for S7286 (Martinez) / A7524 (Thiele) that increases the volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers personal income tax credit from \$200 to \$800 for eligible individuals.

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It is highly recommended that HCFAS send letters of support to NYS legislators requesting their support of the above bills.

Governor's Executive Budget 2024/2025

See Power Point Slides in your mail box pertaining to the following amendments to Article 30 etc.

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

Other notes of interest:

As was mentioned at the February meeting, the Nassau / Suffolk Legislative Committee had a presentation for a frank discussion on the future of Ambulance Service in Fire & EMS on February 28 at South Country Ambulance Company. There was also opposition to OSHA's proposed amendment to section 29 CFR 1910.156 "Fire Brigade Standards" which includes new or proposed NFPA standards which would impose additional requirements on the fire service.

Also, there was opposition to the sunset of the EMT-CC in 2027 due to the shortage of Paramedics and the large number of EMT-CC on Long Island. Chief Greg Miglino presented some very interesting power point slides showing the importance of keeping EMT-CC. The EMT-CC sunset was approved by SEMAC and SEMSCO. Fiona, Andrea and I attended this meeting. Chief Miglino attended the 3/12/24 REMSCO meeting and gave a letter to Chair John Manzi requesting that REMSCO send a letter to Michael McEvoy, SEMSCO Chair, requesting that the SEMSCO action be rescinded or stayed. REMSCO then approved that such a letter be sent. **Letters should also be sent by HCFAS to SEMSCO and others opposing the implementation of the approved EMT-CC sunset in July 2027.**

Interesting: The SEMSCO Finance Committee is finalizing a report "Where are the Emergency Responders: Update on the Workforce Shortage – 2023. It was mentioned that NYS EMS provider numbers decreased 17.5% from 2019 to 2023

REMSCO Meeting: Two seats SEMSCO /SEMAC positions are past the end of terms. Dr Winslow informed the REMSCO that at the last REMAC meeting he was nominated to continue as its representative to SEMAC. He then made a motion to appoint Paul Mara to fill position held by Mike Masterton. The motion was then Seconded. After a discussion the motion was tabled to New Business at which a discussion held regarding who should be our representative to SEMSCO. As of 3/13 the Chair has issued that a special meeting of the Suffolk County REMSCO has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7 PM at Suffolk EMS. This is for a special election for the Suffolk REMSCO representative and alternate representative to SEMSCO. All nominations should be sent to the REMSCO Nominations Subcommittee Chair.

Suffolk REMSCO CPR Life Saving Awards: The event was held on March 2nd in Centereach. Over 200 were in attendance.

NEMSIS 3.5 - Effective July 1 (agencies are responsible for implementation not their ePCR vendor).

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Mutual Aid Agreements:

- North Amityville FD Stony Brook /AMR mutual aid agreement in writing is on file.
- Ridge - AMR mutual aid agreement fell apart. Union disagreement so it has been dropped.

CON – Operating Certificates:

- East Hampton Village Ambulance expansion of territory – two sections in Town of East Hampton – approved by REMSCO.
- Ossining VAC expansion of territory – all of Westchester County – Approved by SEMSCO.
- Scarsdale VAC expansion of territory – all of Westchester County – Approved by SEMSCO.

Events

- Tom Lateulere Memorial EMS Conference Saturday April 27, 2024 – Flyer Posted
- NYS DOH EMS Memorial Dedication – Albany, NY -Wednesday May 22, 2024 11am -Flyer Posted.
- SEMSCO / REMSCO 2023 State EMS Awards Program – Nomination Deadline May 10, 2024 – Flyer distributed and Posted.

Old Business—

- Discussion regarding Overnight Food – waiting till next meeting to discuss when Chief is present.
- Discussion on the SOP 03-2024, need further clarification:

F. Each month, the Chief Dispatcher will run a report of the Company 8 members' hours and submit a copy to the President, **Secretary and First Deputy**. If a member is short of 16 hours (4 hour or 8 hour over night shift complete increments) for the month, the Secretary will issue, in writing, addressed and mailed to the member's address on record with the Squad, a letter stating that they failed to meet their Company 8 requirements and must make up those hours in addition to their 16 hours in/by the following month or they will lose their Company 8 privileges. **At this point, Upon losing there Company 8 privileges,** the member will have to select a day and time available as a permanent shift with the approval of the current Day Captain.

G. The member will have 14 days to choose a new permanent shift and will be suspended if they fail to choose a shift within that time period.

Members will be notified of their suspension in writing by the Chief and will be given the opportunity to appeal the suspension to the Board of Directors in accordance with Article III, Section 9 of the By-Laws.

Send these clarifications to the lawyer to see if he signs off on this.

New Business—

- Betty Wood suggested that we take the mission statement and have it posted in a nice way in the ready room so everyone knows why we are here!
- Vice President Seth Fischer members have approached him to have a plaque for Saves and also for Babies, someone in operations (Chiefs Office) and Roger should work on it.
- Discussion about PIO's, Director Laas suggests we find another PIO, we need to teach someone to put out press releases.

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Projects / Events—

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski second by Betty Wood to enter into executive session at 20:42

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

Out of Executive Session at 20:59

Vice President Seth Fischer left the meeting at 21:06.

Continued New Business -

- Investment/Finance Committee will have a committee regarding our investments. Director Wood will send out an email to the board members asking them to provide her questions that they have regarding investments. After Betty receives our questions she will schedule a meeting with the Investment/Finance committee and report back to the board.
- Director Franz would like us to send letters of support to NYSBEMS regarding the sunset of the EMT-CC program. Director Franz has a form letter that he can provide to the membership regarding the program. Director Franz also reminded the board members to read his report regarding the information about EMT-CC and other legislation that the NYSVARA puts out.

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Secretary Brian Canty to adjourn the meeting at 21:14 hours.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Canty

Secretary

Draft sent to Board members: April 13, 2024

Amended and approved: April 18, 2024

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY