

2024 Board of Director
Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2024 Board of Directors Meeting
October 24, 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
Secretary Brian Canty (BC)	Phone	Director Lehti Laas (LL)	Present
Treasurer James Mallilo (JM)	Present	Director Betty Wood (BW)	Present
Chief William Connolly (WC)	Present		

Guests: Noah Ramos, Mary Winter, Roger Winter

Meeting called to order at: 19:00 hours.

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

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Treasurer James Mallilo to approve the minutes of September 19, 2024 **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Proposals-

Hiring of Paid Paramedic Peter Luby - email vote 10/07/2024

Hiring of Paid Paramedic Mina Sharpe - email vote 10/07/2024

Proposed SOP Change 09-2024

Proposed SOP Change 10-2024

Authorize purchase of holiday cards

Increase bookkeeper's wages

Increase bookkeeper's hours of work

Use of the General Meeting Room- Sunday Nov 10, 2024 – Tiffany Gonzalez #1422

Use of the General Meeting Room- Saturday, June 28, 2025 – Betsy Smith #929

Continuation of Group Term Life Insurance Program

Amend the HCFAS Members Group Life Insurance Coverage Program Guidelines

Renewal of VFIS Accident Policy

NYSIF Renewal of NYS VAWBL Insurance for Volunteers for 2025

NYSIF Renewal of NYS Workers' Compensation Insurance for Employees for 2025

NYSIF Renewal of Employee Disability Benefits & PFL coverage for Employees for 2025

Annual SCACA Dues

Annual NYSVARA Squad Dues & Report

Annual NYSVARA Individual Dues

Annual Association of Fire Chiefs Individual Dues

Annual Firemen's Association State of New York Individual Dues

Purchase a table of 10 for the Huntington Chiefs Council Scholarship dinner

Use of Voting Machine on Election Day

Advance for the Cash Box on Election Day

2024 Election Day Hours

Restrict Candidate Presence on Election Day

Provide Member Email Addresses for Election Candidates Purchase Owala Free Sip water bottles

Hire two EMT-Bs for Tuesdays and Thursdays

Motion to engage Financial Advisor to manage funds in HCFAS Account

Gas Card incentive for shifts lacking two full crews

Children's Holiday Party

Ratify email motion send out on October 5, 2024

Hiring of Paid Paramedic Peter Luby - email vote 10/07/2024

Motion by Chief William Connolly, seconded by Eric Kramer to hire Peter Luby as a per diem Paramedic at a rate of \$34/hour.

HCAD Funds8 Yes MOTION APPROVED

.....1 No Vote – RF

Ratify email motion send out on October 5, 2024

Hiring of Paid Paramedic Mina Sharpe - email vote 10/07/2024

Motion by Chief William Connolly, seconded by Eric Kramer to hire Mina Sharpe as a per diem Paramedic at a rate of \$34/hour.

HCAD Funds8 Yes MOTION APPROVED

.....1 No Vote- RF

Motion by Betty Wood seconded by Vice President Seth Fischer to approved the Proposed SOP Change 09-2024

Proposal:

To increase the number of hours a paramedic can work per week from thirty-six (36) to forty (40).

Background/Justification:

To bring the Squad more in line with other organizations in an effort to increase our paramedic pool.

Changes (additions are underlined and deletions are ~~stricken~~):

Article X, Section 8 – Paid Paramedics

Shifts will vary in hours depending on coverage needed. Eight (8) hour blocks are pre-scheduled but are adjusted based on scheduling needs, as well as paramedic flexibility.

Paramedics may work no more than sixteen (16) consecutive hours with a weekly maximum of ~~thirty-six (36)~~ forty (40) hours for the week.

No Funds.....²/₃ required **UNANIMOUSLY**

Motion by Betty Wood seconded by Vice President Seth Fischer to approved the Proposed SOP Change 10-2024

Proposal:

To abolish the Quarterly Captains' Allowance.

Background/Justification:

In an effort to reduce the paperwork of the Captains and Treasurer, the Quarterly Captains' Allowance will be eliminated.

Changes (additions are underlined and deletions are ~~stricken~~):

Article X, Section 1, Paragraph A (17)(f) – Quarterly Meal Allowance

Renumber g-l to f-h

~~92f. Quarterly Meal Allowance. In Recognition of the membership's services to the community, the
93 Captains and the Vice President are authorized a \$10 per member, \$500 quarterly meal
94 allowance for their days or personnel. Members are only entitled to one Quarterly Meal
95 Allowance per quarter regardless of the number of shifts completed. Captains and the Vice
96 President must request and account for the funds, a signature from the member
97 acknowledging receipt of the funds, in accordance with Article X, Section A, Paragraph 5, (b)
98 of the SOPs by the end of the calendar quarter the request was made in. Captains and the
99 Vice President may not request a quarterly meal allowance unless they have accounted for the
100 previous quarter's allowance.~~

No Funds.....2/3rd required **UNANIMOUSLY**

Authorize purchase of holiday cards

Motion by Treasurer Jim Mallilo and seconded by President Fiona Witkowski to purchase not to exceed 270 gift cards at a value of \$250.00 dollars each. Cards to be purchased from Bethpage Federal Credit Union (BFCU) A \$3.00 fee is charged for each card. \$64,800.00 for the value of the cards and \$810.00 for the fees for a total cost of \$65,610.00

HCFAS Funds**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Increase bookkeeper's wages

Motion by Jim Mallilo and seconded by Fiona Witkowski to increase the bookkeeper's annual wage by \$5.00 per hour, bringing her hourly wage to \$36.00 per hour.

HCAD Funds**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Increase bookkeeper's hours of work

Motion by Jim Mallilo and seconded by Fiona Witkowski to increase the number of hours the bookkeeper can work from 25 up to 40 hours per week, effective immediately. Treasurer shall determine the number of hours that are worked per week.

HCAD Funds**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Use of the General Meeting Room- Sunday Nov 10, 2024 – Tiffany Gonzalez #1422

Motion by Vice President Seth Fischer and seconded by Robert Franz to permit Tiffany Gonzalez #1422, the use of the General Membership Meeting Room in accordance with the HCFAS General Meeting Room Use Application and Rules to conduct her Sister-in-laws Baby Shower on Sunday November 10, 2024 from 1PM to 5PM. Set-up will be on Saturday, November 9, 2024 and cleanup will be immediately 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**

Use of the General Meeting Room- Saturday, June 28, 2025 – Betsy Smith #929

Motion by Seth Fischer and seconded by Robert to permit Betsy Smith #929, the use of the General Membership Meeting Room in accordance with the HCFAS General Meeting Room Use Application and Rules to conduct her daughter's High School Graduation party on Saturday, June 28, 2025 from 3PM to 7PM. Set-up will be on Friday, June 27, 2025 from 1 PM to 9 PM. Cleanup will be immediately 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

Continuation of Group Term Life Insurance Program

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Treasurer James Mallilo to accept the recommendation of Robert Franz, the insurance committee chairperson and Paul Cowell of Hubbinette Cowell Associates, Inc., and approve the continuation of the HCFAS Members Group Term Life Insurance Program with VFIS, in accordance with the amended guidelines, for the period November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025. The group term life insurance is to be provided by VFIS and underwritten by Combined Life Insurance Company of New York at an annual premium amount of approximately \$95,000.00 for eligible active members and inactive life members (based upon the 10/1/24 census of 226 eligible active members and 10 eligible inactive life members). The premium for the addition of eligible new participants and the termination of participants during the year will be paid or credited upon the receipt of an invoice reflecting such changes plus changes for participants moving from one age band to another age band including a reduction in coverage, if applicable. Payments will be made semi-annually from HCAD funds for active members and from HCFAS funds for inactive life members. The program will be administered by the HCFAS insurance committee.

HCAD & HCFAS FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Amend the HCFAS Members Group Life Insurance Coverage Program Guidelines

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Treasurer James Mallilo to amend the HCFAS Members Group Life Insurance Coverage Program Guidelines "Coverage Continuation During Approved Leave of Absences" item 3 and 4 as follows:

3. Military Leave - Change Twelve consecutive months to Forty-eight consecutive months.

4. Educational Leave – Change (Paramedic course – Ten months to Fifteen months).

Program Guideline Amendment –

No funds.....MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Renewal of VFIS Accident Policy

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Chief William Connolly to accept the recommendation of Robert Franz, insurance committee chairperson, and Paul Cowell of

Hubbinette-Cowell Associates, Inc. to continue coverage for HCFAS volunteers under the National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, PA accident insurance policy (Policy) as administered by Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services Inc (VFIS), for the period 11/27/24 through 11/27/25 for an annual premium of \$ 8,180.00. A schedule of coverages or benefits is attached. Further to add our per diem paramedics to the Policy at an annual premium cost of \$1,100 per paramedic who works an average of 25 hours or more per week. Currently two paramedics meet this criterion. There is no charge for paramedics working 24 hours or less. There has been no change in the premium for this policy in the last three years.

The Policy provides an accidental death benefit of \$250,000 and other benefits as per the schedule of coverage attached. Policy is in excess of VAWBL and WC coverages.

HCAD funds.MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

NYSIF Renewal of NYS VAWBL Insurance for Volunteers for 2025

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Betty Wood to accept the recommendation of the Insurance Committee Chairperson, Robert Franz, and our insurance agent, Hubbinette Cowell Associates, to continue for 2025 the New York State Volunteer Ambulance Worker's Benefit Law insurance coverage and Employer Part B with the New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF) for our volunteers at an estimated annual premium of \$30,000.00 for the 2025 calendar year (based on the number of ambulances (6) and response vehicles (3) that we currently have).

NYSIF is the sole provider of VAWBL insurance for volunteer ambulance squads in NYS. A deposit premium of 25% of the annual premium will be paid in December 2024.

HCAD FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

NYSIF Renewal of NYS Workers' Compensation Insurance for Employees for 2025

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Treasurer James Mallilo to accept the recommendation of the Insurance Committee Chairperson, Robert Franz, and our insurance agent, Hubbinette Cowell Associates to continue for 2025 the New York State Workers' Compensation Law insurance coverage with the New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF) for our employees at an estimated annual premium of \$36,000.00 for the 2025 calendar year (based on \$390,000 annual gross wages). A deposit premium of 25% of the annual premium will be paid in December 2024.

HCAD FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

NYSIF Renewal of Employee Disability Benefits & PFL coverage for Employees for 2025

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Lehti Lass to accept the recommendation of the Insurance Committee Chairperson, Robert Franz, and our insurance agent, Hubbinette Cowell Associates to continue the New York Disability Law insurance coverage and the Paid Family Leave (PFL) coverage for our employees with the New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF) at an estimated annual premium of approximately \$ 2,000.00 for the 2025 calendar year (based on \$390,000 of annual gross wages). Disability coverage includes an enriched statutory benefit equal to one-half of the average weekly wage of the employee limited to a maximum of 4 times the statutory benefit of \$170.00 per week or \$680.00. The 2025 PFL premium paid by the employee is 0.388% of gross wages. The Disability premium will be partially paid by the employee – maximum of \$0.60 per week (same as 2024).

The State Fund disability premium modification is anticipated to be 0% for 2025 (2024 was 300%) due to claims experience.

HCAD FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Annual SCACA Dues

Motion by Robert Franz and seconded by Chief William Connolly to pay the annual dues to Suffolk County Ambulance Chief's Association in the amount of \$100.00 for 2025.

HCAD FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Annual NYSVARA Squad Dues & Report

Motion by Robert Franz and seconded by Chief William Connolly to authorize the Squad Primary Delegate to update the NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association (NYSVARA) Member Organization report and approve the dues payment to NYSVARA of \$150.00 for 2025. Ten individual memberships will be included at no charge. The annual report will name Andrea Golinsky as Primary Delegate and Robert Franz as the Alternate Delegate. The primary delegate will be responsible to inform the President, Chief and the membership of any important topics from District 7 meetings that are not covered by Association emails. The primary delegate (or in her absence, the secondary delegate) is authorized to attend the annual conference and vote the Squad Proxy in 2025.

HCAD FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Annual NYSVARA Individual Dues

Motion by Robert Franz and seconded by Chief William Connolly to approve and pay the annual individual dues request of \$10.00 for new or renewal membership in the NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association for Huntington Community First Aid Squad members for the year 2025. The primary delegate is responsible to submit the names and email addresses of each member to the Association.

HCAD FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Annual Association of Fire Chiefs Individual Dues

Motion by Robert Franz and seconded by Chief William Connolly to approve and pay the annual dues request of \$45.00 for new or renewal active or affiliated membership in the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs for any director or Chief officer holding office in 2025 and for any past president or ex-chief. There will be a maximum number of five memberships or a total amount not to exceed \$225.00.

HCAD FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Annual Firemen's Association State of New York Individual Dues

Motion by Robert Franz and seconded by Chief William Connolly to approve and pay the annual dues requests of \$15.00 for new or renewal active or associate membership in the Firemen's Association of the State of New York for any director or Chief officer holding office in 2025 and for any past president or ex-Chief. There will be a maximum number of five memberships or a total amount not to exceed \$75.00.

HCAD FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Purchase a table of 10 for the Huntington Chiefs Council Scholarship dinner

Motion by Chief William Connolly, seconded by Betty Wood to purchase a table of 10 for the Huntington Chiefs Council Scholarship dinner. The price is \$125.00 per person for a total of \$1,250.00. The dinner will be held November 23, 2024 at 6 pm at the Northport Yacht Club. Payment made payable to Huntington Chiefs Council. Cost not to exceed \$1,250.00

HCAD fundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Use of Voting Machine on Election Day

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by President Fiona Witkowski to authorize and approve the Secretary or designee to enter into a purchase order/agreement with the County of Suffolk Board of Elections (SCBOE) for the rental of a voting machine including the services of a voting machine technician, the preparation and printing of ballots, other necessary election paperwork, and delivery and pick up of the machine in connection with the annual HCFAS elections on December 9, 2024 at a cost not to exceed \$1,900.00. Delivery and pick up of the machine may be contracted to SCBOE approved moving company at an additional cost of \$350.00 if the SCBOE cannot perform the task. The total amount is not to exceed \$2,250.00.

HCFAS FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Advance for the Cash Box on Election Day

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by President Fiona Witkowski to authorize the Treasurer to fund the cash box with \$100.00 to provide change when members pay their annual dues on December 9, 2024. A full accounting of the dues monies that are collected and the initial \$100.00 cash box advancement will be detailed in a financial report to be provided to the Treasurer by December 9, 2024.

HCFAS FundsMOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

2024 Election Day Hours

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Chief William Connolly to set the times of the 2024 General Election Day from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Monday December 9, 2024.

No Funds.....MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Restrict Candidate Presence on Election Day

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Treasurer James Mallilo to prohibit any HCFAS member who is a candidate for an elected position, to be in the HCFAS headquarters building at any time from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM on the day of election except for the purpose of being on a regularly scheduled shift, answering a back - up call, acting in the position of the Monday Day Captain or as a Chief Officer, or for casting a ballot. Any exceptions are to be authorized by the President or his designee.

No Funds.....MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Provide Member Email Addresses for Election Candidates

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Eric Kramer to authorize and approve the candidates for an office in 2025, a single use of HCFAS members' email addresses for the purpose of sending candidate qualifications and other pertinent information to the members to solicit votes. Upon request of the candidates, Seth Fischer or his designee will facilitate the transmittal of the candidates' emails to the membership. There will be a maximum of three candidate emails sent each day and the last email group will be sent on Friday 12/6/2024.

No Funds.....MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Purchase Owala Free Sip water bottles

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Robert Franz to authorize the purchase of customized 32 oz Owala FreeSip water bottles as a token of appreciation for members who complete three standby events in the fourth quarter of 2024: October 1st-December 31st. This will be an incentive for members to staff crews for standbys. This is being overseen by Chief

William Connolly, Ex-Chief Mike Como and standby committee chair Suzanne Philip. PO will be filled out by committee chair Suzanne Philip and Ex-Chief Mike Como.
Total cost of each water bottle not to exceed \$50

Each water bottle, priced around \$50, will be customized with the HCFAS logo, creating a unique and meaningful token of appreciation. The Owala FreeSip bottles are not only stylish but also practical, promoting hydration for members who may be on duty for extended periods. Offering a water bottle with our logo will also foster a sense of pride and unity among squad members, reinforcing their identity and commitment to the team.

HCAD funds.APPROVED 8 – Yes
1 - No BW

Hire two EMT-Bs for Tuesdays and Thursdays

Motion by Chief William Connolly and seconded by Vice President Seth Fischer to hire up to 8 EMT-B for a 12 hour shift from 10:00-22:00. The paid EMT-Bs will be the crew leader and operations will provide drivers. The rate of pay will be \$22.00 an hour. This will ensure the agency will have 2 full crews during these days, which have the highest 24 rate.

A lengthy discussion followed. Chief William Connolly pulled the motion

HCAD funds Withdrawn

Motion to engage Financial Advisor to manage funds in HCFAS Account

Motion by Betty Wood and seconded by Eric Kramer to engage Merrill Lynch as our financial advisors for our HCFAS holdings. After reviewing presentations of three financial advisors and their proposals will be made by Betty Wood to BOD with questions and discussions prior to vote by BOD. (Bid form with descriptions of proposals to be available at BOD meeting on 10-24-24.)

HCAD fundsAPPROVED 8 - Yes
1 Abstain - RF

Gas Card incentive for shifts lacking two full crews

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Betty Wood to authorize the purchase of up to 7 gas cards for each day for the purpose of providing incentives to members filling shifts with less than two full crews. Gas cards will be in the amount of \$25 and will be awarded to members who complete a full shift. Day Captains will be authorized to approve up to 2 Crewleaders, 2 Drivers, 1 Dispatcher, and 1 ALS Provider to receive a gas card. To qualify for a gas card, members must call/text the Day Captain and wait to receive confirmation before working a shift. A member may not receive more than 2 gas cards per week. Members should not arrive on shift and expect the incentive. The Captains will be responsible for the distribution of these cards, and they must also forward a spreadsheet signed and dated by each member and approved to the treasurer each week.

Members, including Company 8 personnel, may not use this shift to fulfill their weekly or monthly commitment. The success of this initiative will be reviewed at the end of December 2024 and the results will be used to determine the value of continuing this incentive. The Chief will provide a monthly status report at the Board of Directors meeting.

HCAD fundsAPPROVED 7 - Yes
1 NO - WC
1 Abstain - RF

Children's Holiday Party

Motion by Vice President Seth Fischer and seconded by Betty Wood to authorize and approve the Special Events Committee to have the Children's Holiday Party on Saturday, December 7, 2024, from 11:00 A.M. - 1:30P.M. at headquarters. The authorized attendees and gift eligibility for this event will be in accordance with the Social Committee protocols of Article IX Section 1-5 of the SOPs which must be posted with the signup sheet including that the child must be present to receive a gift. The Special Events Committee, with approval of the Board liaison will have the authority to approve or deny requests to attend by other interested parties with a fee of \$50.00 per child to offset the cost of the gift and incidentals, which is to be paid in advance by the squad member requesting approval but fee must be paid no later than December 1, 2024. Further to authorize an advance of \$5,000.00 which will be accounted for in accordance with the PPP and is to be used to cover the expenditures for food, paper goods, decorations, (table decorations only- no ceiling decorations), entertainment, film and gifts. It is estimated that the gifts will not exceed \$50.00 per child. No other funds will be provided without the express pre-approval of the Board of Directors. The eligible child must be present to receive a gift, no exceptions. Members paying the \$50.00 fee may receive the child's gift, if the child is unable to attend. The Special Events Committee Children Holiday Party Coordinator, Susan Otto will be responsible for this event and will produce for the Treasurer and Special Event Committee Chairperson, an accounting of this event with original receipts within ten days of the event, and the Treasurer will give the BOD an accounting for this event at the next BOD meeting immediately following receipt of the accounting.

HCFAS funds MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Treasurer's Report – James Mallilo

Due to a glitch with the Account Payable report, not able to produce report in time for Board Meeting.

President Fiona Witkowski questioned the mileage reimbursement of two people.
Treasurer James Mallilo explained that this is for EMT Courses.

Chief Report – William Connolly

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

Equipment: The membership would like to add a stairmaster to the gym and upgrade the entire gym. The recruitment committee is actively exploring ways to keep members in the building, ensuring they are available to respond to calls, especially as our 24 rate continues to rise this year. The Co-Chairs of the Gym Committee state that a Stairmaster would fit into the current gym.

Events/Projects Holiday parade Nov 30, 2024

- Treasurer Canty asked the Chief if he has an update on the 12 people who are MIA and those that are short for the 3rd Quarter.
- Director Franz asked for an update on the members who are in the ACL program that we had asked about last month.

Secretary's Report - Brian Canty

New members

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Chief William Connolly to accept Andrew Ganley as new probationary member #1750, Shift: Saturday 1900 in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the By-Laws.

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

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Chief William Connolly to accept E Lewis as new probationary member #1751, Shift: Monday 0700 in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the By-Laws.

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

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Chief William Connolly to accept Noushine Zaman as a student probationary member #1752. Shift: Tuesday 1900 hours plus a secondary shift to be approved by the Operational Officers in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the By-Laws. The two shifts per week will be done during the school summer break and during other school breaks and it is further understood that they will remain on extended probation while attending college and will be eligible to be off probation after four months from their final educational leave of absence end date. She also must pass dispatch training within one month after his final educational leave of absence end date.

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

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Chief William Connolly to accept Yonaris Velasquez as new probationary member #1753, Shift: Friday 0700 in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the By-Laws.

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

Motion by Lehti Laas and seconded by Chief William Connolly to accept EMT Caroline Mancino as new probationary member #1754, Shift: Saturday 1100 in accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the By-Laws

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

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Chief William Connolly to grant the following Status Change:

Kenneth Jacoutot #1690 – Active Operational to Resigned effective 10/01/2024.

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

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

Leave of Absence						
Mem #	Last Name	First Name	Day & Shift	LOA Start	LOA End	Type of LOA
1725	Boettger-Smolich	Christopher	Sunday 0700	8/19/2024	12/19/2024	ELOA
757	Canty	Brian	Wednesday 1100	10/20/2024	1/22/2025	MLOA
921	Maloney	Ann	Thursday 1100	9/26/2024	12/26/2024	MLOA
1616	Poplowski	Lily	Company 8	9/23/2024	12/23/2024	EMLOA
1509	Raynor	Danielle	Sunday 0700	10/1/2024	1/1/2025	OLOA - 1 st Ext
1358	Daniels	Jeffrey	Sunday 0700	10/7/2024	1/7/2025	EMLOA (LOD)
1618	Edwards	Nerissa	Sunday 1100	10/7/2024	1/7/2025	EMLOA (LOD)

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

Status Change/Advancement						
Member #	Last Name	First Name	Day & Shift	From	To	Effective
<u>1565</u>	<u>Bernfeld</u>	<u>Elizabeth</u>	<u>Thursday 1900</u>	<u>FA</u>	<u>ACL</u>	<u>9/26/2024</u>
<u>1722</u>	<u>Chicas</u>	<u>Erin</u>	<u>Monday 2300</u>	<u>FA</u>	<u>ACL</u>	<u>9/29/2024</u>
<u>1746</u>	<u>Fischer</u>	<u>Daniel</u>	<u>Saturday 2300</u>	<u>ACL</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>9/27/2024</u>
<u>1721</u>	<u>Keatley</u>	<u>Chelsea</u>	<u>Friday 2300</u>	<u>FA</u>	<u>ACL</u>	<u>9/15/2024</u>
<u>1743</u>	<u>Sweta</u>	<u>Kumararaja</u>	<u>Tuesday 1900</u>	<u>Disp. Tr.</u>	<u>Disp.</u>	<u>9/28/2024</u>
<u>1737</u>	<u>Noueihed</u>	<u>Andrew</u>	<u>Friday 1100</u>	<u>FA</u>	<u>ACL</u>	<u>9/15/2024</u>
<u>1678</u>	<u>Portillo</u>	<u>Dany</u>	<u>Thursday 2300</u>	<u>ACL</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>9/27/2024</u>
<u>1754</u>	<u>Weigele</u>	<u>Grace</u>	<u>Saturday 1500</u>	<u>Disp. Tr.</u>	<u>Disp.</u>	<u>9/19/2024</u>
<u>1464</u>	<u>Wood</u>	<u>Betty</u>	<u>Thursday 1500</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>Disp.</u>	<u>9/19/2024</u>

Return to Duty						
Mem #	Last Name	First Name	Day & Shift	LOA End	Type of LOA	RTD Date
1616	Poplowski	Lily	Company 8	12/23/2024	MLOA	10/2/2024 - Full Riding
1285	Wissner	Leslie	Sunday 1500	10/3/2024	MLOA	10/1/2024 - Disp Only

Short Hours Co8 - First Letter						
1571	Farina-Ehlers	Vera	-1			
1535	O'Niell	Jeffrey	-6			

Director Bob Franz Report Insurance

VAWBL Policy Claims

On October 7, 2024 two members were injured in separate incidents and claims have been filed with the NYSIF.

- Back Injury due to patient handling
- Trip and fall – hand and wrist fractures

Group Life – A motion will be presented at this evening’s meeting. This will be the beginning of the 5th Year with VFIS / Combined Life and the premium calculation is the same as last year.

Claims paid:

For 2024 - \$0; 2023 - \$ 100,000; for 2022 -\$135,000 and for 2021 - \$65,000.

The Amendment to Group Term Insurance Guidelines will bring the Guidelines into present durations for these items.

VAWBL and WC renewals 2025

Premium rates have decreased for 2025, however, due to our volunteers’ claim experience, our experience modification is at 109% of our basic premium. This modification is applied to both our VAWBL and WC policies by the NY Workers Compensation Rating Board. Before our two claims mentioned above, I was able to increase our NYSIF discount by 5% or 25% to 30% on both policies.

VFIS – Accident Policy – A motion for renewal is being presented this evening with no increase in rate for the 24/25 year.

Legislation Update NYS

The third bill that was passed by the NYS Assembly and Senate in June was delivered and signed by the Governor.

Bill S2862 / A2121 – Authorizes municipalities to offer real property tax exemption to certain volunteers who live in such municipality but who serve in a neighboring municipality

Photo Op October 15 at HCFAS

I took the opportunity to speak with State Senator Mario Mattera while he was at the Squad regarding his support for the following two bills which should assist with the recruitment and retention of members. His staff sent an email shortly thereafter indicating the Senator will support both bills as a Co-Sponsor in the 2025 Legislative Session.

Bill # S7286 (Martinez) / A7524 (Thiele) that increases the volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers personal income tax credit from \$200 to \$800 for eligible individual
This bill passed the Senate in 2024.

Bill # S6630 (Mannion) / A6274 (Barrett) that allows volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to claim both state income and local property tax credits.
Both bills will have to be reintroduced in the 2025 legislative session in 2025.

NYS Volunteer Ambulance And Rescue Association - Legislative Town Hall Meeting

Andrea Golinsky and I attended the October 19, 2024 Legislative Town Hall Zoom Meeting at 5:30pm head lined as “Looking Ahead to 2025: What’s Happening in EMS Legislation”.

NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association Annual Meeting

Andrea Golinsky and I attended the October Annual Meeting. Congratulations to the following members:

Mark Brenner – Recognition as EMS Educator of Excellence Award

Monica Rios – Scholarship winner.

Noah Ramos – Scholarship winner.

Dr. Jason Winslow - Recognition as Physician of Excellence

Old Business—

Director Betty Wood advised that her contact from Paycheks was on vacation so she could not finish the handbook.

New Business—

Donation Form – President made up a donation form to be used internally so we know who is donating something to the organization.

Eric Kramer would like to change the Board of Directors meeting for December to Wednesday, December 18, 2024

President has asked Grim Media to change the pictures on the website. They suggested we add a news page. President Fiona Witkowski will get us an estimate.

Projects / Events—

None

Motion by President by Fiona Witkowski, Seconded Vice President Seth Fischer to enter into executive session at 20:21

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Out of Executive Session at 21:31

Motion by President Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Lehti Laas to adjourn the meeting at 21:48 hours.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Canty
Secretary

Draft sent to Board members: 11/18/2024

Amended and approved: 11/21/2024

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY