

Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2024 General Membership Meeting
Date: August 12, 2024

Board of Directors and Operational Officers:

President Fiona Witkowski	PRESENT	Chief William Connolly	PRESENT
Vice President Seth Fischer	ABSENT	First Deputy Chief Michael Como	PRESENT
Secretary Brian Canty	PRESENT	Second Deputy Chief Keith Rubenstein	ABSENT
Treasurer James Mallilo	ABSENT	Third Deputy Chief John Stevens	ABSENT
Robert Franz	PRESENT	Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos	ABSENT
Eric Kramer	PRESENT	Sunday Co. 1 Capt. James Kelly	PRESENT
Lehti Laas	PRESENT	Monday Co. 2 Capt. Lily Poplawski	PRESENT
Elizabeth Wood	PRESENT	Tuesday Co. 3 Capt. Brandon Eybergen	ABSENT
		Wednesday Co. 4 Capt. Dominic Heavey	PRESENT
		Thursday Co. 5 Capt. Kenney Cadet	PRESENT
		Friday Co. 6 Capt. Eve Pollack	ABSENT
		Saturday Co. 7 Capt. Matthew Philip	ABSENT

Welcome to the 2024 General Membership Meeting.

The Meeting will come to order at 1933 hours

Secretary Brian Canty reported to President Fiona Witkowski that the required quorum of 50 members are present per the sign in sheet (eligible members 60).

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Jeffrey O'Neill - Let us take a moment to honor our brave Troops who have lost their lives in the service of our country.

The President and the Officers and Committees have posted all reports on the white board instead of giving oral reports. Any questions regarding the information on the white board should be asked when that office gives their report.

Get Well Wishes, Condolences and Prayers:

Congratulations to Jaimie Fitzsimons (nee Terenzi) #1643 and her husband Glen on the birth of their Baby Girl, Avery Madison, born on July 30th, weighing 5lbs 2oz. Congratulations to proud grandfather Paul Terenzi #1094.

Our Condolences to the family of Ellen M. Thomson, Associate Member #601, who passed away on July 14th, 2024.

Our Condolences to Tiffany White (#1259) and her family on the passing of her Uncle.

Congratulations to Mark Brenner on receiving The Suffolk Regional Emergency Medical Service Council (REMSCO) 2023 Educator of Excellence award for His outstanding contributions.

Longevity Awards (Length of Service): Chief will announce on his report for (5-15 years).

25 Years of Service:

Dominic Heavey #973

Dominic Heavey #973 - Twenty-Five (25) Years of Service – Congratulations Dominic for your twenty-five years of loyal and dedicated service to the Huntington Community First Aid Squad. Thank you for all that you do, you are truly an asset to this Organization.

Motion by Secretary Brian Canty and seconded by Chief Bill Connolly to change the order of business to hold a special election for the position of Thursday Day Captain.

In Favor: All

.....**Motion Approved Unanimously**

President Witkowski opened up the floor for nominations:

Dominic Heavey nominates Kenney Cadet

No Other Nominations, Nominations Closed

Motion by Roger Winter seconded by Dominic Heavey for the secretary to cast one affirmative Ballot for Kenney Cadet

.....**Motion Approved Unanimously**

**Kenney Cadet is elected as Thursday Day Captain.
Congratulations Kenney!**

Motion made by Roger Winter and seconded by Director Lehti Laas to destroy the Ballot.

All in Favor

.....**Motion Approved Unanimously**

Secretary's Report – Brian Canty

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Dominic Heavey to approve the July 8th, 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes as amended and posted.

.....**Motion Approved Unanimously**

Correspondence Received:

Thank you notes.

Thank You From the Plante Family for allowing them to use the meeting room for the Blood Drive in memory of Brian Plante

Thank you note with a donation from the Nugent Family.

President's Report – Fiona Witkowski

Thank you to Brian Canty and his Special Events team who organized this year's picnic. Even though August 3rd was one of the hottest days of the year, members and their families had fun and enjoyed the pool! Fortunately, the rain held off until the evening. Once again, the food was very good and this year we had a zeppoli truck as well as an ice cream truck.

The board brought in four new members at the last meeting and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lehti Laas, Noah Ramos and Michelle Franco for all their hard work in guiding all the new applicants through the Membership process. Thank you to all the people on the interview committee, headed by Joanne Cunningham and finally, thank you to Sean Delle and the team who have put up signs around the area encouraging new people to volunteer with us.

Congratulations to Mark Brenner on being chosen as EMS Educator of Excellence in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Suffolk County in 2023. This is a great honor and we are proud to have one of our own members receive this award – it is well deserved! The award will be presented at the annual Vital Signs conference in October.

Far from resting on his laurels, Mark is currently teaching a BLS CME core course here, this week. Thank you to the members who wrote letters of support for Mark: Tim Ebert, Karen Reim, Hank Waldron and Paramedic Joe McCaffrey – I couldn't have done it without you!

www.hcfas.org please let me know!

Treasurer's Report – James Mallilo – Absent – Report Posted

Chiefs Report – William Connolly

I hope everyone had a nice Independence Day and is enjoying the summer.

The blood drive in memory of Brian Plante was a huge success. The Plante family was quite overwhelmed with the turnout and expressed their tremendous gratitude to HCFAS for hosting the event.

I would like to thank Chief Michael Como, Secretary Brian Canty and Captains James Kelly and Dominic Heavey for coordinating HMFD parade logistics despite its cancellation due to thunderstorms. To note, we covered five days of standbys at the Huntington Manor Fire Department Fair. Thank you to everyone who helped on standbys. I would like to thank Chief Keith Rubenstein for coordinating the logistics for the standbys

The East Northport Fire Department Parade and Fair was on Wednesday, August 7th. We will meet at Thank you all that turned out.

The Greenlawn Fire Department Parade and Fair is Thursday, August 29th. We will meet at HQ at 1730 and leave at 1745. Lineup will be at 1800 at the St. Francis of Assisi Church on Clay Pitts Road with the parade starting at 1900. Class B uniform. Food will be served at the lineup for the fire department parades. All parades count as probationary events. Class B uniform is navy pants, white uniform shirt, badge, nameplate and black shoes.

Thank you to my colleague and good friend, Dominic Heavey. Dominic was the First responder to arrive on the scene when my father had an Acute Miocardial Infarction (AMI).

Length of Service Awards:

Five (5) Years of Service:

Benjamin Curry #1568

First Deputy Chief – Michael Como – Report Posted

Thank you everyone for your hard work! We're more than halfway through 2024. Chief Connolly emailed a survey to the membership. If you have already completed the survey, we thank you for participating.

If you have not, please consider doing so. You may click the link below:

<https://forms.gle/mt9UMcq79zF6JWFR8>

NOTE - In the numerical scale questions...1 is the lowest score and 5 is the highest score.

Quarter Regs/Gift Card/LOSAP:

The three sections below cannot be repeated often enough:

1. 48 Quarterly shift-hours per quarter

The HCFAS calendar year is broken into four quarters. Q1 1/1-3/31, Q2 4/1-6/30, Q3 7/1-9/30 and Q4 10/1-12/31. Each member needs to complete 48 shift-hours during each of these three month blocks. Members that fail to hit 48 hours in any given quarter receive a letter of intent from the 1st Deputy (currently me) and are in bad standing until they catch up on hours. If a member that received a letter is short for another consecutive quarter, they are suspended for two weeks by the Chief. A third delinquent quarter results in an indefinite suspension pending a hearing. More information can be found in the SOPS Article II, Section 1 (pg 8).

2. 36 shifts completed prior to December 1st

To be eligible to receive a gift card on our Squad election day, a member must be in good standing and have completed 36 shifts by December 1st. This is 36 complete shifts. A list of eligible members is provided to the Board of Directors. More information can be found in the SOPS Article X, Section 1, 17G (pg 72).

167 **3. 50 LOSAP points per calendar year**

168 The Town of Huntington sponsors the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) for
169 HCFAS. Since 2020, our LOSAP program awards \$30 per month for each qualifying
170 year (minimum of 5 years required to be vested) once you reach the age of entitlement
171 of 65. An example would be that you have 10 qualifying years of service and then receive
172 \$300/month at the age of 65.

173
174 A member can only have a qualifying year towards LOSAP if they hit 50 LOSAP points.
175 It is highly recommended that every member strive to fall safely over 50 points each year
176 in case they are audited and lose points during the audit. Points are awarded for
177 completing duty tours, going on calls, completing your monthly review trainings,
178 attending meetings, etc. Everyone's LOSAP points are posted in the ready room
179 periodically throughout the year.

180
181 **Stand-bys:**

182 There are many standby opportunities coming up. Keep an eye out for postings from the standby
183 committee.

184
185 Thank you to all who helped with Huntington Manor FD fair standbys. I know those are late
186 nights in the middle of summer. I appreciate you giving your time to that effort.

187
188 **Second Deputy Chief – Keith Rubenstein – Absent – No Report**

189
190 **Third Deputy Chief – John Stevens – Absent – No Report**

191
192 **Chief Dispatcher – Melissa Anastos – Absent - Report Posted**

193 **2024**

194 Calls through 8/11/24: 3954

195 24's through 8/11/24: 87

196 Average 2 time for July: 3:11

197 **2023**

198 Calls through 8/11/23: 3688

199 24's through 8/11/23: 12

200 Average 2 time for July: 3:07

201
202

We had 15 signal "24's" in July.

203 Year to date, only 15 of our 24's have been between 2300-0700. 44 of our 24's were between
204 0900-1700. If you are a CL or DR and would like a pager, please leave me a note in my mailbox
205 or email me.

206 Please remember – All calls that a rig is assigned to requires a PCR, whether it's a No PT Found
207 or Call Cancelled. Any PCRs for these types of calls that are not created, I will be creating (Per
208 Dr. Neubert) a PCR and placing the CL as the Lead on Scene. I will also add the personnel and
209 disposition if possible. When this type of PCR shows up in your ESO, please remove myself,
210 "Chief Dispatcher" and complete the PCR. Do not ask to have these PCR's deleted. This way all
211 PCRs will be completed as required. If you feel you were not the CL on the call, please advise
212 me via email at chief.dispatcher@hcfas.org.

Also, if anyone needs a mail folder (Please check to make sure you have one!), leave a note in my mailbox and I will make one for you.

Company 1 - Sunday Day Captain James Kelly – Report Posted

I hope everyone is having an absolutely wonderful summer! The season is flying by, so, I hope you're all enjoying it to the fullest. Sunday has always had its share of staffing challenges but with everyone's constant support, we've been able to cover most of our calls and keep the ambulances ready to serve our community. As always, a heartfelt thank you to everybody who has offered to give their time to the Squad on Sundays. Your help is not only appreciated by me, but by the department and your community. I appreciate you all and Huntington does as well.

I'd like to welcome Steven Morell to the HCFAS family! Steven is currently an EMT presently in dispatch training and will be riding the ambulance very soon.

Please say hello on the Sunday 1500! Tamia McKay has been with us for some time as a Post member but has now been accepted as an adult member!

With folks starting to head back to school, Sundays will need some additional help in the very near future.

0700 Shift: Crew Leader

1100 Shift: 2 Drivers

1500 Shift: Crew Leader

2300 Shift: Dispatcher, DR/CL, and Full Crew

ALS is also occasionally needed on various shifts on Sunday. So, if you are an ALS provider and are able to join us, we would love to have you.

If you are able to pick up an extra shift, your help would be so very appreciated! First Aiders and ACLs are always welcome, many hands make light work.

Thanks for all of the help everybody. Enjoy the rest of the summer and I hope to see you on Sundays. Stay safe and stay awesome.

Company 2 - Monday Day Captain Lily Poplawski – Report Posted

Happy August! We have made tremendous work in July with 0 24s! Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to keep us 24 free. We are at 16 for the year as of the time of this writing.

Thank you to everyone who came down to help the last few weeks: Kenney Cadet, James Kelly, Barry Winter, Shannon Gore, Vera Ehlers, Michael Vincent, Alex Bayer, Brandon Eybergen, Hank Waldron, Colin Weigele, Jess Mason as well as all the hardworking and dedicated Company 2 members and many others. Your help is truly appreciated.

Please consider picking up some Monday shifts! The following are PERMANENT openings!

These need help EVERY week on top of vacancies that open up regularly.

1100 Shift: CL/DR & FULL CREW

2300 Shift: TWO (2) FULL CREWS

Congratulations to #1722 Erin Chicas on passing her EMT Exam!! We can't wait to have you on the road. Also, Congratulations to #1709 JT Starcke on starting medical school! He will be seen on the 0700 shift.

Probationary members, please be on the lookout for upcoming Company 2 work details as the weather gets nicer. Please remember you need 5 meetings and 5 events as well as all RTs to come off of probation.

Please continue to do your checkouts and keep radios on and with you on calls. Keep up the great work!

Thank you all for your consistent hard work and dedication on Mondays- Please be safe and I look forward to seeing you all around at some point!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns you can reach me on my personal cell at 631-374-5663 or via email Monday.Captain@hcfasg.org.

Company 3 – Tuesday Day Captain Brandon Eybergen – Absent – No Report

Company 4 - Wednesday Day Captain Dominic Heavey – Report Posted

Let me start by saying thank you to all Company 4 members for all your hard work and to all those members who helped out on Wednesday's.

Congratulations to the following members:

#1751 Max Polster Wednesday, 0700-1100 ACL to CL June 6, 2024

#929 Elizabeth Smith Wednesday, 1900-2300 EMT to ACL June 31, 2024

#1728 Michael Gallagher Wednesday, 2300-0700 EMT to ACL July 1, 2024

#1712 Michael (Shaggy) Bardunais Wednesday, 2300-0700 EMT to ACL August 11, 2024

New Member on Wednesday 0700-1100 #1244 Meaghan Allison who comes from the Tuesday shift.

Wednesdays have had (8) 24s YTD (as off 08/06/2024).

Company 5 - Thursday Day Captain Kenney Cadet – Report Posted

Thank you for electing me and for allowing me to be the Thursday Day Captain! Every shift needs help.

Please contact me if you are able to come down and help us out in any way. Thank You!

Company 6 - Friday Day Captain Eve Pollack – Absent – Report Posted

Hello Everyone! Happy August!

Thank you to all Company 6 members and beyond for keeping the whole day running smoothly and covering practically every shift! I look forward to finishing off the rest of the year as strong as we started. Thank you to all of those who attended my CISM awareness training on July 25th. For those who were unable to make it, please keep your eyes out for CISM flyers!

Lastly, a shout out to Jackie de Bruin for everything she did as an Officer and beyond. Her shoes will be hard to fill. I look forward to working with the future Thursday Captain!

For this week, a CL is needed on the 0700 and 1100 shifts and a full crew is needed on the overnight!

Please let me know if you are available to do some or any of those shifts. First Aiders and ACLs are *always* welcome so come on down and spend your Fridays with us - get to know what Company 6 is all about!

As a reminder, keep yourselves hydrated and cool as we cannot take care of others if we are not taking care of ourselves.

Company 7 - Saturday Day Captain Matthew Philip – Absent - Report Posted

Thank you Michael Vincent Terry, Jr., Jackie de Bruin, Jake Levinsky, Lauren Grosner, Peyton Kalb, Frank Paccione, Ben Curry, Suzanne Philip, Mike Capotosto, Evelyn and Kemberlin Hernandez and Luke Weiner for helping out on 2300 shifts this month.

Company 7 needs a CL on the 1100 shift, a CL and a Full Crew on the 1500 shift and a DR on the 1900 shift. If anyone wants to come down for a shift, contact me at (631) 553-3135.

Delegate & Committee Reports

LOSAP 2024 Points – Bob Franz

NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association Scholarship-Deadline August 15th – Bob Franz

The NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association scholarship application can be found on their website www.nysvara.org or on the bulletin board & must be received by August 15, 2024 (applications postmarked later than the deadline August 15, 2024 will not be considered). This scholarship is open to squad members and post 215 members, including probationary members. Each year the NYSVARA provides up to three \$500 scholarships. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit as determined by The Scholarship Committee of the Association, whose decisions are final. Applicant must be a high school senior in good academic standing and graduating in June of the year applying or an adult member furthering their education. Applicant must have applied to and be planning to enroll and pursue a course of study in an accredited college or university.

NYSVA&RA Special Awards – Bob Franz

Recognition of outstanding contributions. For additional information and nomination application visit NYSVARA.org website. The nominee application submission deadline is September 13, 2024.

The Suffolk Educational program for Retention in the Voluntary Emergency Service (SERVES) -Bob Franz

The SERVES Administrative Guide is posted on the bulletin board and is available on line - Go to www.suffolksbravest.com. Suffolk County resident student volunteers may attend a college or university in Suffolk or Nassau County or take on line courses from accredited institutions of higher education or attend an authorized workforce vocational training program in Nassau or Suffolk County. **The application and supporting documentation for each semester must be submitted no later than the 8th Friday of the academic calendar.**

Some highlights of the SERVES program follow.

- The program is a reimbursement program with an award payment made directly to the student-volunteer at the completion of each semester.
- SERVES provides a reimbursement based upon tuition costs at Suffolk County Community College- i.e. as of July 2024, the maximum payment for a 12 plus credit schedule (full-time status) with a GPA of 3.75 to 4.00 or an "A" would be \$2,915. The student-volunteer will receive reimbursement based upon a sliding scale related to their GPA.
- The number of credits supported by the program; **full or part time**; covers a Bachelor's Degree or up to 120 credits (see administrative guide for definition of lifetime credit hours). If you already earned 120 credits of higher education, you are **not** eligible for SERVES.
- The student-volunteer agrees to use SERVES funds only to supplement any tuition not covered by sources of free financial aid (TAP, PELL, APTS and etc.)
- The student-volunteer must maintain acceptable volunteer activity and training during their entire course of study. There is also a volunteer service obligation of one to five years after attendance at a college or university based upon the number of credits taken under the program.
- Applications are date stamped upon receipt and the earliest dated applications shall be reviewed first as SERVES funds shall be disbursed on a first come, first served basis.

LOSAP 2024 Points – Bob Franz

The 2024 LOSAP Point listing posted on the bulletin board is being updated periodically. It is requested that each member review their points and report in writing any discrepancies to the LOSAP point committee. All review trainings must be completed & submitted by December 31, 2024 to be eligible for LOSAP points for 2024. Review Trainings should be completed on a monthly basis, please do not do more than a maximum of two review trainings in a single day. Please report any duplicate entries that you notice on your LOSAP account to the LOSAP point committee ASAP.

LOSAP 2023 Benefit Statements - Bob Franz

We just received the December 31, 2023 LOSAP benefit statements in the mail today. Within two weeks, your statement will be distributed to you in your member mail folder or by the USPS. Upon receipt, please review this statement carefully and if any of the information is incorrect, please put a detail note with any corrections in Director Bob Franz's mailbox. If you require a change of beneficiary, please use HCFAS Form # 430 which can be found on the form rack

outside the dispatch office or on the Squad website or server. Please make sure your legal name and address is correct on the statement.

Benevolent Committee – Brian Canty & James Barkocy– If there is a need from any member please contact Brian Canty or James Barkocy for assistance.

Fund Drive Committee – Mary Brenner & Joan Florio - As of August 6th, 2024 the Fund Drive Committee has collected total donations in the amount of \$71,786.00.

Pulse Committee – All Reports and Articles are due the 25th of the month.

Stand-By Committee – Kenney Cadet, Peyton Kalb & Suzanne Philip – A Full Crew is needed on Saturday, September 21, 2024 for the Touch A Truck event which will take place at the Walt Whitman Mall. Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate. Please contact the Stand-by Committee if you are able to help out. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the ready room.

In Closing:

Has everyone fingered in?

Thank you to those who have helped prepare tonight's dinner:

Social and Kitchen Committees: A Special thanks to Lisa Mohr, Bob Biersack, Angie Kalodoukas, Carol Nucci, Gregory Orr, Christy Stiles and Claire Tesoriero

New Business:

A Press Conference is scheduled for Friday, August 30, 2024 at the Huntington Town Hall for Huntington Goes Purple for recovery. All HCFAS members are welcome to attend this conference.

Dominic Heavey – A Court hearing was held last week regarding Alison Russo's case. The next Court hearing is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2024. All members are welcome to attend the hearing and to show support for Alison's Family.

Lehti Laas – The Recruitment and Retention Committee is continuously seeking new members to join our Organization. Please let your Family and Friends know about us. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining HCFAS, please contact Michelle Franco, Noah Ramos or Lehti Laas. Thank You!

Old Business:

Lehti Laas give an update on Recruitment and new members. She thanked the committee for their outstanding work.

Various Raffles:

Target Gift Card (\$25) – Lehti Laas (Gifted to Dominic Heavey)

Uber Eats Gift Card (\$25) – Carol Nucci
Lowe’s Gift Card (\$25) – Peyton Kalb
Cheesecake Factory/Red Lobster Gift Card (\$25) – Jeffrey O’Neill
8 pack High Noon Vodka Tea – Henry Waldron
1 Case Sam Adams Boston Lager Beer – Kelly Murphy
1 Bottle Barefoot White Zinfandel – Patricia Tufo
1 Bottle White Wine – Hugh O’Brien

Members in Attendance: Eligible Members 60, Probationary Members 11, Total: 71

Motion made by Roger Winter and seconded by Paul Shapiro to adjourn the General Membership meeting at 2008 hours.

.....**Motion Approved Unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine A. Tedone

Assistant Secretary

Brian Canty

Secretary

Draft posted: September 1, 2024

Draft Approved: September 9, 2024

2024 GMM Attendance	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	August
President Fiona Witkowski	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
Vice President Seth Fischer	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	A
Secretary Brian Canty	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
Treasurer James Mallilo	P	P	P	A	P	P	S	S
Robert Franz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Eric Kramer	A	P	A	P	P	A	A	P
Lehti Laas	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P
Elizabeth Wood		P	P	P	P	P	P	P

August 2024 General Membership Meeting

Chief William Connolly
 First Deputy Chief Michael Como
 Second Deputy Chief Keith Rubenstein
 Third Deputy Chief John Stevens
 Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos
 Sunday Co. 1 Capt. James Kelly
 Monday Co. 2 Capt. Lily Poplawski
 Tuesday Co. 3 Capt. Brandon Eybergen
 Wednesday Co. 4 Capt. Dominic Heavey
 Thursday Co. 5 Capt. Jacqueline de Bruin
 Thursday Co. 5 Capt. Kenny Cadet
 Friday Co. 6 Capt. Eve Pollack
 Saturday Co. 7 Capt. Matthew Philip

P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P
A	P	P	P	A	A	P	A
P	A	A	P	A	A	A	A
A	A	A	P	A	P	A	A
P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P
P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
A	A	A	P	A	P	A	A
P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
P	P	A	A	A	A	A	A
							P
P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A

472