

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

Board of Directors and Operational Officers:

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

Welcome to the February 2024 GMM. Happy Valentine's Day to all our Members!

This month we celebrate Presidents Day and the Birthday of the First President of the United States, George Washington.

Meeting called to order at 1937 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 68).

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Robert Franz – Please remain standing to honor our brave Troops who continue to fight overseas.

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:

It is with deep sadness that the Operational Officers and Board of Directors announce the passing of Jose Ramirez, Brother-in-law of Captain Brandon Eybergen #1512. Please Keep Brandon and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

It is with deep sadness that the Operational Officers and Board of Directors announce the passing of Police Officer David Pendola from the Second Precinct and member of Commack Fire Department. Please Keep Officer Pendola's Family in your thoughts and prayers.

Yesterday, Life Member and Ex-Chief Andrew Ball #206 was taken to Stony Brook Hospital with a head injury. Please keep Andy and his family including his Daughter-in-law and Ex-Chief Casey Orr in your thoughts and prayers.

It is with deep sadness that we announce the Passing of Charter Member Kay Noonan # 42, wife of Ex-Chief Hal Noonan. Please keep Hal in your thoughts and prayers.

President Fiona Witkowski – President Fiona invited Nancy Neuman, daughter of Life Member Ferd Neuman to speak on his behalf. Nancy wanted to personally thank everyone that showed up on January 16th to build a ramp for her dad Life Member Ferd Neumann. She couldn't believe the 15 – 20 individuals came to build a ramp for Ferd Neuman, his wife and for their family. As a Thank you from the Neuman family, she presented the squad with Chocolates.

Please welcome tonight's Guests Katherine & Lou LaForgia – Kathy was found in cardiac arrest in December 2023. She spent 13 days in the Hospital.

President Fiona invited up Kathy, her family and the Crew that responded to Kathy's aid. The Crew said a few words. Sharon spoke beautifully recounting the events of the call.

0700 - 1100 Responding Crew: Lily, Grace, Evan and Medic Joe. Katherine is very grateful to the crew and Organization, she has nothing but love for you, this organization and these people. She is very grateful to her team and would not have survived. She said, "they didn't even scuff the walls".

Motion made by Paul Shapiro and seconded by Mark Brenner to change the Order of business to hear nominations for the position of Director.

Candidates must be off Probation. Please state your name and membership number and the name of the Candidate:

Brian Canty (#757) - Nominates David Mohr

Ann Schwartz (#1313) – Nominates Elizabeth “Betty” Wood

President Witkowski closed nominations.

Roll Call Taken

Eligible Votes Cast - 57

David Mohr – 18 Votes

Elizabeth “Betty” Wood – 36 Votes

Non-Nominated Members – 2

Abstain - 1

Congratulations to the new Director Elizabeth “Betty” Wood!

Motion made by Mark Brenner to destroy the Ballots seconded by Paul Shapiro

Motion Approved Unanimously

Motion made by Keith Rubenstein and seconded by Dominic Heavey to change the order of business to vote on the SOP Changes: #01-2024, #02-2024, #03-2024

Proposed SOP Changes #01-2024, #02-2024 and #03-2024 – Read by David Mohr – Chairman of SOP Committee

Proposed SOP Change #01-2024 Proposal:

To add the reimbursement of members for Specialty License Plates.

Background/Justification:

NYS has Specialty License Plates to identify individuals as First Responders. Our members can obtain specialty plates that identify them as VAS, EMT or Paramedics. In support of members, it is proposed to reimburse them the cost of the plates.

Change (additions are underlined and deletions are ~~stricken~~): Article X, Section 1, Paragraph A, 17 – Purchasing Policy, Miscellaneous Items Add a new sub-paragraph i - Specialty License Plates Sub-paragraph i - Specialty License Plates

Sub-paragraph

i - Specialty License Plates

The Treasurer is authorized to reimburse members up to \$60.00 every two years for Specialty License Plates (VAS, EMT or Paramedic). Members must submit to the Treasurer's office a purchase order with:

i Proof that you ordered the specialty license plate and

ii Proof of payment

Consensus Vote Taken:Majority in Favor – 2 Opposed

Proposed SOP Change #02-2024 Proposal:

To move the responsibility for Holiday meals from the Chief to the Special Events Committee.

Background/Justification:

The Special Events Committee is better prepared to handle catering.

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~~ Special Events Committee is authorized to spend an amount not to exceed \$650.00 for food and refreshments on each pre-approved holiday.

Consensus Vote Taken:Unanimous

Proposed SOP Change #03-2024:

To change the current Company 8 SOP to reflect sustained hours over the course of the year.

Background/Justification:

The current SOP for Company 8 is constantly taken advantage of, resulting in many delinquent Company 8 members. This aims for consistent hours and to deter bombardment of hours at the end of a quarter.

Change (additions are underlined and deletions are ~~stricken~~): Article II, Section 2, Paragraph 9 - Company 8

The purpose of Company 8 is to enable a member of HCFAS who can no longer maintain a regularly scheduled duty tour to continue their active, operational membership in HCFAS. To request Company 8, a Duty Tour Change Request Form (#138) stating the reason(s) for requesting Company 8 status must be submitted to the Chief, with a copy to the First Deputy and the current Day Captain. Documentation supporting the request (i.e., letter from employer, school transcripts) must accompany the form. The request will be reviewed, discussed and voted on at the next scheduled Officer's meeting. The member will continue on his regularly scheduled duty tour, or obtain a replacement of equal or higher status, pending the results of the Officer's meeting. Members requesting Company 8 must be in good standing, be a First Aider or higher in status or a Permanent Dispatcher with a minimum of two years on the Squad, and be prevented by work, school or other situation from fulfilling a regularly scheduled duty tour.

The following rules and regulations apply to all members granted Company 8. Any violation may result in the loss of Company 8 privileges for a minimum of ninety days and could result in permanent loss of Company 8 privileges. Members may appeal the loss of privileges to the Board of Directors.

- A. The member must fill two scheduled duty tours per two-week (minimum of eight hours over the two-week period) and must be on time and in uniform to receive credit for the duty tour. An eight-hour overnight duty tour will count for two consecutive weekly tours.
- B. It is the responsibility of the members of Company 8 to call the Day Captain of the day in which they are available to fill a duty tour. A minimum of forty-eight (48) hours notice is required.
- C. If a member of Company 8 cannot make a scheduled duty tour they signed up for, he must get a replacement of equal or higher status for the duty tour or he will receive a no show.
- D. If the member has two (2) no shows and/or two (2) late shows, Company 8 privileges may be forfeited.
- E. Members on Company 8 who cannot fulfill a weekly duty tour must inform the First Deputy Chief in writing ahead of time.
- F. Each month, the Chief Dispatcher will run a report of the Company 8 members hours and submit a copy to the President. If a member is short of 16 hours (4 hour or 8 hour overnight shift complete increments) for the month, the Secretary will issue, in writing, posted 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 the member will have to select a day and time available as a permanent shift with the approval of the current Day Captain.

The First Deputy is responsible for maintaining the hours of Company 8 personnel. He will report to the Operational Officers and a review will be conducted on the status of all Company 8 personnel at the first Operational Officers' meeting following the completion of a calendar quarter (January, April, July and October). A copy of the report will be distributed to the Board of Directors at the first scheduled Board meeting following the first Operational Officers' meeting of the quarter.

Consensus Vote Taken: Unanimous

President Fiona Witkowski – Report Posted

Congratulations to the new Director Elizabeth “Betty” Wood!

The first floor renovation is now complete, barring a few minor cosmetic repairs. I hope you are pleased with the “new look”. Please take care of everything and clean up after yourself; if you spill something, mop it up; If the garbage can is full, please empty it; If you use the oven, please make sure it is clean when you have finished; if you break something, or find something that is not working, please let someone know.

At the last board meeting the SOP change regarding food for the holidays was approved. The amount was raised from \$500.00 to \$650.00 for each event and you just heard a new proposed SOP change to put the ordering of food for special events in the hands of the Special Events Committee. This should help the Day Captains and reduce waste.

Vice President Seth Fischer – Report Posted

Happy February!

I would like to take a moment to share with you some exciting updates and opportunities within our beloved Huntington Community First Aid Squad.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to be working alongside our esteemed Board of Directors and operational officers to further enhance our organization's mission. Together we are committed to making the Huntington Community First Aid Squad an even greater place to volunteer and give back to our community. Their dedication and vision are truly inspiring, and I am honored to be a part of this collaborative effort.

Additionally, I am excited to announce that I will be working closely with our Administrative Members to streamline processes, improve communication, and ensure the smooth operation of our squad. Their commitment to excellence are invaluable assets to our organization and I am eager to see the positive impact of our collective efforts.

On another note, I am reaching out to our membership for assistance with our Uniform Committee. We are looking for enthusiastic individuals who are passionate about maintaining the professionalism and identity of our squad through our uniforms. If you are interested in participating or have any recommendations, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Your involvement will be greatly appreciated as we strive to uphold the high standards of our organization.

In conclusion, I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering dedication and support. Together I am confident that we will achieve great things. If you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you once again!

Warm regards!

Secretary's Report Brian Canty - Posted

**Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Dominic Heavey to approve the January 8, 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes as amended and posted.
Motion Approved Unanimously**

Correspondence

Incoming –	Received a Thank You letter from St. James Fire Department for help
	Received a donation in memory of Joe Gander
	Received a solicitation from BPA International regarding remote work
Outgoing –	Sent a Thank You letter to HMFD for all their help with the Ramp

Treasurer's Report – James Mallilo – Report Posted

Chief's Report – William Connolly – Report Posted

Greetings Members,

I hope you are all staying warm.

Thank you to the Tuesday and Wednesday crews who came in during the snowstorm and the Sunday crews that came in during the nor'easter. Also, Thank you to everyone braving these cold temperatures.

I would like to welcome our new Lead Medic Michael Moccaldi, who is replacing Alex Mullin. Alex will remain with HCFAS as a paramedic and as primary narcotics agent. We will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade again, on Sunday, March 10th, step off will be at 2:00 PM. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the ready room.

As a service to all EMS providers, Suffolk REMSCO will continue to offer the following language interpretation service: Language Line Services, Inc. (A Language Line Solutions Company). Remember, it is of utmost importance to 'get the complete story' when responding to a call, even if the patient is not able to communicate well in English. Using an interpreter to facilitate communication is better than using a family member, bystander, child or hand gestures

and is the standard of care. Errors that adversely affect patient care can and do happen as a result of poor communication.

Thank you to Second Deputy Keith Rubenstein for setting up a Radio Training with HMFD for the officers.

In the future CSHFD would also like to train with us.

Thank You to Sean Delle. Sean made some Corn Hole Boards. I am looking to doing some March Madness in May with all the Days Competing against each other for some special prizes, more to come.

To access an Interpreter: Dial: 1-800-523-1786

- Provide your Client ID Number: 572448
- Press 1 for Spanish or press 2 for all other languages (at the prompt state the name of the language you need).
- Provide your Access Code for HCFAS: 2150
- You will be connected to an interpreter who will provide his/her ID number.
- Brief the Interpreter.
- Summarize what you wish to accomplish and provide any special instructions.
- Add the LEP (Limited English-Speaking patient) to the call.
- Avoid private conversations, everything you say will be interpreted.
- Try to avoid technical or medical terms.
- Say "End of Call" to the Interpreter when your call is completed.
- Document your use of an interpreter on your Patient Care Record.

Length of Service Awards:

5 Years:

Joseph Savaglio #1549

Felix Medina #1542

10 Years:

Diane Muszynski #141

I hope you have a nice Presidents Day weekend.

First Deputy Chief – Michael Como – Report Posted

I hope everyone is well. Thank you all for your hard work at HCFAS.

Snow is predicated this evening into tomorrow, so if anyone is available to help out until 15:00 tomorrow it would be greatly appreciated.

Quarter 1 Hours:

We are in the first quarter of calendar year '24, which ends on March 31st. As stated in our SOP's, everyone must have 48 duty tour hours per quarter. If you are unsure about your hours or if you need to submit any adjustment forms, reach out to your Day Captain or myself. Please check your hours regularly and submit adjustments in a timely manner.

If you are going to miss a shift, plan to make up the hours by coming in early and staying late or doing another shift entirely. There is always a high need for personnel on every overnight shift and these shifts are a great opportunity to get additional hours. Your Captains will be extremely grateful for any overnight help as they regularly take on these shifts themselves.

Driver Training/Driving:

If you are interested in becoming a Driver, place a photocopy of your driver's license in my mailbox. Once I receive your license I will run it in the DMV database. It will be discussed at the next officers' meeting, and then voted on by the Board of Directors. Upon approval you would then enter into the Driver Training Program and work with Chairperson Jeff Brenner and his driver trainers to progress through the training. It's a great training opportunity and provides a valuable resource for our agency.

If you are currently a Driver, please drive safely and respectfully when you're out on the road. Remember to drive with due regard and keep everyone's safety in mind. Most accidents for first responders occur in intersections. Make sure to methodically clear each lane. Slow your driving if the crew in the back requests it. Especially if you have ALS on board.

Stand-bys:

I'm very happy to welcome Suzie Philip and Peyton Kalb to the standby committee. Kenney Cadet will continue to head up the committee and Suzie and/or Peyton will be at the GMM's to alert the membership about standby needs.

A huge "thank you" to Captain Lily Poplawski for taking the first standby of the year with me covering Greenlawn's district during their Installation Dinner. Standbys like this help us maintain good relationships with neighboring departments and help us get standby crews when we need them.

HCFAS Paid Medic Program:

We recently had a change of leadership in our paid Paramedic program. Alex Mullin stepped down from lead medic and is now a District Medic as well as our lead controlled substance officer. Alex was promoted to lead medic over two years ago. In his time as lead, he helped us become an RSI agency, was the first Paramedic to use RSI in our agency and has had numerous CPR saves. We are grateful for all he did for us and glad he is staying on our staff.

With that being said we are also happy to report that our new lead medic is Mike Moccaldi. For those of you that don't know Mike, his full-time job is with NYPD Special Ops Division EMS and he has been a Paramedic since 2009. Congratulations, Mike!

Second Deputy Chief – Keith Rubenstein – Report Posted

Hello Everyone,

I want to thank everyone that completed their January review training on time. Also, thank you for the people that did the PHTLS course we will be holding more throughout the year. Please continue to do your review trainings. Additionally, if you have any classes that you want the squad to host please reach out to me.

Please keep an eye out in the near future for trainings alongside Huntington Manor FD at their training facility. Emails will be posted to sign up for these training sessions.

I would also like to extend a thanks to Ex-Chief Mark Brenner for providing this months review training.

Third Deputy Chief – John Stevens – Absent - Report Posted

Good Evening All,

Thank you all for the success this first month in 2024. We've received a lot of good feedback and will be implementing some changes based on that. This month currently all our fleet is operational and in service. We are waiting on a few parts to arrive on specific rigs but they may be used on a case by case basis.

- a. 16 - Waiting on Camera (Should only be utilized as 4th or 5th response)
- b. 18 - Mirror replaced, PM completed
- c. 17 - Monitor Mount + Shore Power Ejector (Going to Proliner week of 2/19)
- d. 19 - O2 Door Fixed
- e. 81 - New Shore Power, Batteries
- f. 21 + 82 up next for PM

As some of you may have noticed there have been some constraints on Supplies and Medication. We're working with distributors as well as local resources to make sure we are stocked. While these mostly pertain to ALS, I wanted to make everyone aware.

A Big thank you to Captain Lily Poplawski and her team for stocking and organizing the BLS closet. They worked very hard on this and did a great job. Please make sure we're keeping that room organized and clean moving forward.

We have added 10 new LifePak batteries in rotation and started removing some of the older outdated batteries. If you come across a battery that won't charge over 2 or 3 bars, please mark

it and place it to the side.

We will be standardizing the LifePak monitor layout in the coming weeks and a separate email will be sent outlining those changes. Please expect that in the near future.

Please be careful with the upcoming storm, remember that our teams safety is the highest priority during an emergent response. There is Calcium and Shovels in all the rigs should they be needed. Please make sure these items are readily available and location is noted while performing your rig inspection.

Any concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. You may contact me via Text or call at 631-626-9854 or by email third.deputy@hcfas.org

Chief Dispatcher – Melissa Anastos – Absent - Report Posted

Thank you to all the Dispatchers who keep coming in, handling multiple calls and for doing a great job. You are the heartbeat of HCFAS and you are all doing an amazing job.

As I am sure you have all noticed, we are back to our “old” pre-COVID “24” times. I understand how this can be confusing. Mike Barker has graciously offered to give any and all Dispatchers an “advanced dispatch training” to go over this as well as a few other pointers.

If anyone is interested in attending a class, please contact me at chief.dispatcher@hcfas.org, or Mike Barker at dispatchtraining@hcfas.org. We would like to schedule numerous classes with minimal members so that you each receive personal attention.

As of 1/21/24 at 1000, we already have 9 Signal 24's for this year. Fridays have the most 24's, between 0900-1200 and 1800-1900.

If anyone is able to listen up on Fridays during the day, please let me know and I will get you a pager.

Help is needed on all days - so if you can't come in for an extra shift but can listen up and respond to Signal 3's, it would be helpful.

Here are your February Reminders:

- To all Dispatchers - Please page out for ALS if we do not have a medic for any Charlie, Delta or Echo call.

To the crews - if you are going on a Charlie, Delta or Echo call, do not have a medic and do not hear the Dispatcher paging, please remind them. It can get really crazy in dispatch, as we all know and a gentler reminder can be a great help.

- Please remember to add the Medic in personnel. If you are not sure of the Medic's name, just ask the crew. We use this in multiple ways, such as keeping track of their calls, payroll, etc.

• The “P” or “CC” goes next to the vehicle the medic left the building in. Not the transport vehicle.

• When you have a “9 on a 16”, The “9” time will always match the “2” time. Please do not change the “2” time to when the crew actually goes on a “2”. If you do, it appears – on our reports – that we did not go on a “2” for an extended time.

As always, any questions or concerns, please contact me. If any Dispatcher needs assistance or has any questions, I am usually just minutes away. Call me or text me any time if it gets too crazy in dispatch – I typically can come in and help.

To all Day Captains: If you get a late call out or can’t cover dispatch, please contact me – again, I typically can be there.

Company 1 - Sunday Day Captain Grant Werner – Absent - No Report Posted

Company 2 - Monday Day Captain Lily Poplawski – Report Posted

We had a bit of a rough January and start to February here on Mondays. My Condolences to Tuesday Captain, Brandon Eybergen and his family. It is important we work as a community to build each other up and help each other in times of need and distress. On a lighter note, I hope everyone has a wonderful Valentine’s Day.

Here are some of the permanent positions we need in Mondays:

0700 Shift: DR

1100 Shift: CL/DR & FULL CREW

2300 Shift: DR & FULL CREW

Additionally, if you’re looking for a new permanent shift, now is the perfect time to change. If you are interested in coming to Company 2, please come and see me.

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 may contact me on my personal cell 631-374-5663 or via email at Monday.Captain@hcfasg.org

Company 3 – Tuesday Day Captain Brandon Eybergen – Absent - Report Posted

Good evening, I am unable to attend tonight’s GMM due to my work schedule at FDNY/EMS in the Communications Division in the Bronx.

“It’s okay to not be okay”

As many of you may know or if you’d did not know my Brother-in-Law, Alex Ramirez, a father to a 3, 5 and 7 year old boys, a husband to my sister, my Brother-in-Law lost his life to the mental health epidemic. He tragically took his life on January 29, 2024. The eldest child of his was 7year old Grayson. He was the one who found him and alerted my sister to call 911 to which all resources were called upon.

I would like to thank the crews who responded as this took place in Huntington Station. Many thanks to the other assisting departments; HMFD and SCPD. Thank you for your ongoing support for my sister, my family and her 3 children. At this time if anyone is able to donate clothes, food or toys please contact me.

May I remind all department members to practice situational awareness. We at HCFAS are Emergency Medical responders not Mental Health Advocates or Psychologists. We should not be discussing in public view our personal opinions.

Mental health is a major issue that many don’t want to talk about apart from my family’s personal loss a 2nd Precinct Officer tragically took his life most recently on January 29th. If you ever need to talk to someone about anything, please feel free to reach out to myself or the Suffolk CISM hotline at 631-924-5435 which offers one on one sessions over the telephone.

Tuesdays continue to struggle. Many thanks goes to Bobby Loysch and Hank Waldron, who continue to help out on Tuesdays as that isn’t their shift but week in and week out are always helping HCFAS and its Community

Tomorrow there is a major snowstorm alert; with this we need support on the following:

1100 Shift - CL

1500 Shift - CL

2300 Shift (2) Full Crews Needed

Company 4 - Wednesday Day Captain Dominic Heavey – Report Posted

Good Evening Everyone,

I hope everyone has a very Happy St. Valentine’s Day this Wednesday. If you are LOOKING to give some LOVE come on in on Wednesday and HELP OUT. We would LOVE to see you.

To all Company 4 members well done on getting your January review training done. As usual thank you for giving up your time to service your community, to everyone who comes in to help out thank you.

To all members please make sure that you keep up with your finger read paper work.

Wednesday had 2/24’s since our last meeting and they were due to a high call volume.

513 1/31/2024 @ 19:45 25-D-IV

514 2/7/2024 @ 07:19 6-C-1E

515 Update on Alison Hearing.

516 Keep up the good work and be safe out there!

517 Welcome New Member Guy Garizio #1720.

518

519 **Company 5 - Thursday Day Captain Jacqueline de Bruin – No Report Posted**

520

521 Need Help on the 0700, 1100 and Overnight I need a Crewleader. Thank you to all the members
522 who come out on a weekly basis and help out especially Andrew Taylor who spends his whole
523 day here.

524

525 **Company 6 - Friday Day Captain Eve Pollack – Report Posted**

526

527 Hello Everyone!

528

529 It is crazy to think that we are already well on our way into February. Thank you all for making
530 my first month of being Captain as enjoyable as it was! My report is as posted in the Pulse.

531

532 In January we had one new member join shout out to Chelsea Keatley and a warm welcome
533 back to Christina Denker, Luke Bartolomeo and Kathy Castillo. January would not have been
534 as successful as it was without continuous help and support from all of you, especially, Christian
535 Caballero, Barry Winter, Andrew Taylor, Paul Bayer, Dany Portillo, Liam Komatsu, Jonathan
536 Menard, Alvin Espinal, Steven Benjamin, Thomas Curry and Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos.

537

538 Fridays have been busy this past month. Thank you to all company 6 members and for going
539 beyond and keeping the whole day running smoothly and covering practically every shift!

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542 **For this week help is needed as follows:**

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544 **0700-1500 Shift - ALS needed**

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546 **1100 Shift - Third due DR**

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548 **1900 Shift - Third due CL**

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550 **2300 Shift – (1) DR and (2) CL**

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552 Please let me know if you are available to do some or any of those shifts. First Aiders and

553

554 ACLs are *always* welcome. So come on down and spend your Fridays with us and get to

555

556 know what Company 6 is all about!

557

558

Company 7 - Saturday Day Captain Matthew Philip – Report Posted

Good Evening Members,

Thank you to Michael Vincent Terry, Jr., John Stevens, Jackie de Bruin, Jake Levinsky, Natalie Amaya, Julianna Lewandowski, Lauren Groser, Peyton Kaulb, Ben Curry, Grant Werner, Suzanne Philip, Mike Capotosto, Evelyn and Kemberlin Hernandez for helping out on the 2300 shifts this month.

The Saturday schedule is looking good, but there is a dire need for (2) drivers and every week for the 2300 shift. An overnight shift is a good way to catch up on hours or gain LOSAP points. If anyone wants to come down for a shift, contact me at (631)-553-3135.

Delegate & Committee Reports:

NYSVARA Town Hall Zoom Meeting Tuesday February 13, 2024 (see squad bulletin board) – Bob Franz

An email was sent out by the Association regarding this meeting. On January 9th, Governor Hochul delivered her State of State Address, which was followed by the release of the 2020 FY NYS Executive Budget on January 15, 2024. For the third year in a row, the Governor has included a section on emergency medical services. This section includes several EMS topics that address topics in NYSVARA's 2024 public policy agenda.

EMS topics in the State of State and Section V of the FY 2025 NYS Executive Budget Health and Mental Hygiene Article VII bill include:

- Expanding the definition of EMS
- Making EMS an "Essential Service"
- Permitting EMS providers to provide care in the community during non-emergent situations (Community Paramedicine)
- Establishing statewide EMS supplemental task forces
- Building on the concept of "Acute Hospital Care at Home" and adding emergency medical services to the "Hospital-Home Care-Physician Collaboration Program", which will be renamed "Health Care Delivery Collaboration Program"
- Establishing a Rural Paramedic Telemedicine Urgent Care Program

10 % Property Tax Exemption – Bob Franz

The filing deadline with the Town of Huntington (TOH) Assessor is Friday March 1, 2024 for property tax year 12/01/24 to 11/30/25. **The property must be owned by the volunteer or the volunteer and spouse only.** Members who are currently receiving the 5- year or 20-year status tax exemption will have their years status renewed by the Squad by the deadline date.

Current recipients who moved or sold their home prior to March 1, 2024, or had other ownership changes, please drop a note with your detail information in Director Bob Franz's mailbox. If you moved and purchased another home, you must fill out a new application form for your new residence.

Members who will be eligible for the first time (achieved at least 2 years or more of service by 3/1/24 and own a home (title must transfer by 3/1/24)), please complete an application form and

place it in Director Bob Franz's mailbox before Friday February 9, 2024. Exemption Application Forms are on the Bulletin Board or were distributed to you via email or USPS. **A copy of your driver's license to show proof of primary residency must be included with the application.** The driver's license copy must be legible and readable. To be eligible, the property must be owned by the volunteer or the volunteer and spouse only, the property must be your prime residence and be in the Town of Huntington and you must have 2- years of active squad service by March 1, 2024.

For members with 20 or more years of service by March 1, 2024, the property can be located anywhere in Suffolk County (Call Bob Franz at 631 421-9121 or email robo4200@hotmail.com for specific details).

Note for members currently receiving the property tax exemption: If you do not want the Squad to renew your property tax exemption on 3/1/24 because you intend to take the \$200.00 NYS income tax credit for calendar year 2025, please put a note in Bob Franz's mailbox prior to February 9, 2024.

Note: On December 9, 2022 Governor Hochul signed legislation that creates an op-in for all local governments in NYS to provide a 10% property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers. Prior to this there were a collection of laws that only allowed 30 counties including Suffolk County to have some form of property tax exemption. As a result of this new law, the previous laws were repealed. However, any local government (village, town, school district, fire district, county) that had provided a property tax exemption may continue to do so, but must adopt a new local law or resolution by December 9, 2025 that conforms to the provisions of the new law. Currently the minimum service requirement is five years, Under the new law, each local government must determine a minimum service term requirement for eligibility – two years at minimum, five years at most. As of this writing, Suffolk County, the Town of Huntington, Huntington Union Free School District and the South Huntington School District and some Fire Districts have passed resolutions under the new law with a two year service requirement by the local application filing deadline date of March 1st. Two school districts have not passed resolutions as of tonight - East Northport/Northport (on BOE agenda for 2/15/24) and Cold Spring Harbor.

Members who meet the eligibility criteria and achieved or will achieve 2 to 5 years of service by March 1, 2024, please complete an application form.

Members who live in cooperative apartments are no longer eligible for the exemption under the new law.

NYS Income Tax Claim for Volunteer Firefighters' & Ambulance Workers' Credit for 2023 – Bob Franz

You can claim the \$200.00 refundable credit for 2023 on the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance **Form IT-245**. As per the instructions, **you cannot claim the credit if you receive a real property tax exemption that relates to your volunteer service under Real Property Tax Law**. The ambulance workers' credit is available to full-year NYS residents who are active volunteer ambulance workers for the entire tax year for which the credit is claimed. A copy of the Form IT-245 & instructions is posted on the bulletin board. If you have any technical questions, consult your independent tax advisor.

649

650 **LOSAP 2023 Points – Bob Franz**

651 The 2023 LOSAP Point listing posted on the bulletin board is being updated periodically. It is
652 requested that each member review their points and report in writing any discrepancies to the
653 LOSAP point committee.

654

655 All review trainings had to be completed & submitted by December 31, 2023 to be eligible for
656 LOSAP points for 2023.

657

658 All 2023 LOSAP forms had to be completed and submitted to the LOSAP point committee by
659 January 16, 2024.

660

661 The LOSAP point listing is audited by the Town of Huntington's CPA company. If you find any
662 type of errors in your account, please report them to the LOSAP point committee in writing.
663 It is recommended that each member have more than 50 points at December 31, 2023 so that any
664 subsequent correction of posting errors (such as, activity posted to the wrong member account,
665 duplicate activity posting etc.) will not cause you to have less than 50 points and therefore not
666 qualify for a year of service credit for 2023.

667

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

670 The SERVES Administrative Guide is available on line - Go to www.suffolksbravest.com.

671 Suffolk County resident student volunteers may attend a college or university in Suffolk or
672 Nassau County or take on line courses from accredited institutions of higher education or attend
673 an authorized workforce vocational training program in Nassau or Suffolk County. **The**
674 **applications and supporting documentation for each semester must be submitted no later**
675 **than the 8th Friday of the academic calendar.**

676 Go to www.suffolksbravest.com for the guide.

677 Some highlights of the SERVES program follow.

678 - The program is a reimbursement program with an award payment made directly to the student-
679 volunteer at the completion of each semester.

680 - SERVES provides a reimbursement based upon tuition costs at Suffolk County Community
681 College- i.e. as of January 2024, the maximum payment for a 12 plus credit schedule (full-time
682 status) with a GPA of 3.75 to 4.00 or an "A" would be \$2,820. The student-volunteer will
683 receive reimbursement based upon a sliding scale related to their GPA.

684 - The number of credits supported by the program; **full or part time**; covers a Bachelor's Degree
685 or up to 120 credits (see administrative guide for definition of lifetime credit hours). If you
686 already earned 120 credits of higher education, you are **not** eligible for SERVES.

687 - The student-volunteer agrees to use SERVES funds only to supplement any tuition not covered
688 by sources of free financial aid (TAP, PELL, APTS and etc.)

689 - The student-volunteer must maintain acceptable volunteer activity and training during their
690 entire course of study. There is also a volunteer service obligation of one to five years after
691 attendance at a college or university based upon the number of credits taken under the program.

692 - Applications are date stamped upon receipt and the earliest dated applications shall be reviewed
693 first as SERVES funds shall be disbursed on a first come, first served basis.

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

Fund Drive Committee – Mary Brenner/Joan Florio – As of January 30, 2024 the Fund Drive has collected \$2,989.00

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

Special Events Committee – Brian Canty – Invitations for the Installation Dinner were sent out over the weekend. Please remember if you are bringing a guest to click the add guest button and if you are not bringing a guest, omit & Guest from your response. RSVP are due by March 9, 2024.

Children's Annual East Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 10:00 AM. The Easter Bunny will be there.

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 Kaloudoukas, Kevin McCann, Gregory Orr, Christy Stiles and Claire Tesoriero

New Business:

Old Business:

Jake Levinsky – Updates regarding ESO. NEIMS 3.5 New York State is expected to rollout the updates within the next couple of Months. As soon as I know I will notify everyone.

Various Raffles:

Exxon Mobil Gas Card (\$25) – Lorrie Stone

Chipotle Gift Card (\$25) – Robert Franz

Cheesecake Factory Gift Card (\$25) – Mark Brenner

Home Depot Gift Card (\$25) – Tim Quigley

Bottle of Red Wine & Chocolates – Eve Pollack

Bottle of red wine & Chocolates – Sheryl Roach

Bottle of red wine & Chocolates – Dominic Heavey

Bottle of red wine & Chocolates – David Mohr

Foos Ball Table – Eve Pollack

Television (TV) Set – Jacob Levinsky

Members in Attendance: Eligible Members 60, Probationary Members 8, Total: 68

Motion made by Roger Winter and seconded by Ann Maloney to adjourn the General Membership meeting at 2035 hours.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine A. Tedone

Recording Secretary

Brian Canty

Secretary

Draft posted and sent to membership: March 4, 2024

Draft Approved: March 11, 2024