

Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2022 General Membership Meeting
Date: June 13, 2022

Officers:

President Fiona Witkowski	PRESENT
Vice President Thomas Lemp	ABSENT
Secretary Carol Nucci	PRESENT
Treasurer Roger Winter	PRESENT
Jeffrey Daniels	ABSENT
Robert Franz	PRESENT
Lehti Laas	PRESENT
James Mallilo	PRESENT
Chief David Kaufman	PRESENT
First Deputy Chief Kathryn Donegan	PRESENT
Second Deputy Chief Dale Bartolomeo	ABSENT
Third Deputy Chief William Connolly	PRESENT
Chief Dispatcher Michael Capotosto	ABSENT
Sunday Co. 1 Captain Jacob Levinsky	PRESENT
Monday Co. 2 Captain John Connors	PRESENT
Tuesday Co. 3 Captain Joseph Savaglio	ABSENT
Wednesday Co. 4 Captain Dominic Heavey	PRESENT
Thursday Co. 5 Captain Colin Weigele	ABSENT
Friday Co. 6 Captain Alexander Hastava	PRESENT
Saturday Co. 7 Captain Steven Benjamin	PRESENT

Meeting called to order at 19:39 hours

Secretary Carol Nucci reported to President Fiona Witkowski that the required quorum of 50 members are present per the sign in sheet (eligible members 63).

Pledge of Allegiance Lead by Richard Gierbolini - President Fiona Witkowski asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for all departed HCFAS members and for all of those who serve in the armed services to America. Furthermore, let us take a moment to remember all the victims of the Robb Elementary School shootings in Uvalde, Texas. We would also like to acknowledge those who perished in the Buffalo, New York Supermarket shooting. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the victims and their families.

Presidents Report - Fiona Witkowski

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.

Tonight's General Membership meeting will be held in Honor and in Loving Memory of our dearly departed Member, Tom O'Leary #1187.

Congratulations, Get Well Wishes and Prayers:

Our deepest sympathies to Diane Muszinski on the passing of her father, Longin Stupnicki who resides in Poland. Our thoughts and prayers are with Diane and her family during this very difficult time.

It is with deepest regret and great sadness that we announce the passing of 15 Year Member, Tom O'Leary #1187. Yesterday, Tom unexpectedly passed away at his home. He will be sadly missed by all of his friends at HCFAS. We extend our deepest sympathies to his children, Tom, Jr., Lauren and Michael. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tom's Family during this difficult time.

**Motion made by Brian Canty to change the order of business seconded by David Mohr
Motion Approved Unanimously**

Proposed By-Law Change #02-2022 Read by David Mohr – Chairman of SOP's:

Proposed SOP Change 02-2022:

Motion by Chief Kaufman and seconded by President Witkowski to update the Fire Stand-by SOP to add the paid paramedic response, inasmuch as 9F calls come in as Alpha calls, to which the paid paramedic would not normally respond.

The proposed SOP was published in the May 2022 Pulse and read, discussed and a consensus vote taken at the June 13, 2022 General Membership Meeting. A Consensus vote was taken and was overwhelmingly positive.

Background/Justification:

Advanced life support at a Fire Stand-by is necessary for the use of the Cyanokit.

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

Article VI - Emergency Calls, Section 12 - Fire Stand-bys

Fire Stand-bys are a unique type of emergency call that involves multiple agencies, can have multiple patients, including fire department personnel, and a scene that can change at a moments notice. Upon receipt of a fire stand-by call the following should be done.

1. The Dispatcher should send two (2) ambulances to the scene. The Cyanokit should go on the first responding ambulance along with the dispatched paid paramedic and/or any available ALS. The first arriving ambulance will be a non-transporting, command ambulance until an Officer arrives on scene and takes over command of the scene, at which time the Officer

in Charge will determine if the first arriving ambulance will continue to be a non-transporting, command ambulance.

2. As always, the highest-ranking officer on scene is in charge. In the absence of an officer, the first arriving Crew leader is in charge.
3. 2-15-25 (MCI Vehicle) is only to be sent when staffing permit or upon request by the Officer in Charge, but only after two (2) ambulances have been dispatched.
4. Switch all communications for the stand-by to F-2.
5. Utilize the SMART triage system for multiple patients.
6. Initiate Suffolk County EMS Fire Rehabilitation protocol.
7. Identify the need for additional resources.

1. Additional ambulances from surrounding departments.
2. Suffolk County Coordinator.
3. Suffolk County for misting fans.
4. Dispatchers should try and obtain a second Dispatcher.

Notify the Day Captain

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

NO FUNDS

President Fiona Witkowski – Report Posted

You will notice that we have a new Secretary – Carol Nucci. Lehti Laas decided to step down from this position due to pressure of work at the CDC, but she will remain on the Board. Thank you Lehti for your service. Thank you very much to Carol for agreeing to take over as Secretary. I appreciate you fitting this job into your busy life.

I am pleased to announce that thanks to our grant writer, Louis Dell (Thursday 1900) we will be awarded a State and Municipal Grant (a/k/a a SAM Grant) of \$150,000. We plan to spend some of this money on new carbon monoxide detectors and the balance will go towards the renovation of the kitchen, bathrooms and ready room area.

The board agreed to a new pay structure for the paramedics which will begin on August 1st. Our aim is to have a paramedic assigned to every shift and one way to help achieve this is to offer a more competitive pay rate. We have sufficient funds in our budget to cover the increase in pay. Without the pay increase, we believe it will become difficult to hire more medics to fill the gaps in our medic schedule (which are extensive) and some of our current medics may end up leaving to go to neighboring departments. If you have any comments, please bring them up under “New Business”.

Finally, it is very important that someone on each crew is assigned to collect insurance information – this need not be the Crew leader, it can be a First Aider or the Driver. Our budget depends on us being able to bill for our services and currently this is only happening about half

the time. This cannot continue. If the patient is unable to provide insurance details, please go to the registration desk near ambulatory care. Do not ask the triage nurses for this information. If you experience problems, please let me know.

Secretary's Report – Carol Nucci – Secretary

Motion by Roger Winter and seconded by Mark Brenner to approve the April 11, 2022 General Membership Meeting Minutes as amended and posted.

Motion by Robert Franz and seconded by Roger Winter to approve the May 9, 2022 General Membership Informational Meeting Minutes as amended and posted.

Since the May meeting, we received correspondence for: Community Relations Event at Old Navy on May 14th. All cards and letters are posted on the bulletin board. Proposed SOP change 01-2022 to allow paid paramedics to respond to Alpha and Bravo calls was not approved by the Board of Directors at their May 5, 2022 meeting.

Motion Approved Unanimously

A Message from our New Secretary Carol Nucci – I would like to thank Robert Franz, Lehti Laas and Christine (Chrissie) Tedone for all of their assistance in helping me to transition into my new position as Secretary.

. If you can help at all please let me know!

Treasurer's Report – Roger Winter – Report Posted

TREASURER'S EXPENSE REPORT			
May 5, 2022 - June 12, 2022			
6000	EMS		\$ 57,514.98
6100	Vehicles		\$ 14,778.75
6200	Building		\$ 63,654.52
6300	Utilities		\$ 5,599.24
6400	Communications		\$ 23,936.67
6600	Insurance		\$ 14,983.47
6700	Office		\$ 836.24
6800	Uniforms		\$ 1,710.99
7000	Training		\$ 1,329.00
7300	Subsistence		\$ 1,236.88
8000	Other Expenses		\$ 1,531.05
			<u>\$ 187,111.79</u>

Chief's Report – David Kaufman – NO Report

First Deputy Chief – Kathryn Donegan – Report Posted

I wanted to start off by taking a moment to remember the dedication, compassion and service of member #1187, Tom O'Leary. Tom was exceptionally helpful to me during my time as Captain and I will always remember his kind and calm demeanor as well as it steadfast commitment to our community and organization. He is going to be so deeply missed. My heart goes out to his family both at home and with HCFAS during this incredibly difficult time.

We are in the FINAL MONTH of the second quarter of the year. Everyone needs 48 hours per quarter. Please remember to finger in and out on the same shift. 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. Take the time to submit any adjustments for mismatches before the end of the quarter.

For Company 8 members, please reach out if you need any support in knowing which shifts are in need. As a reminder, let the day captain know when you will be in so they can add you to their roster and onto a crew.

Please make sure when you are going out on a leave and returning that your have all the proper forms and documentation. When returning from your leave, please notify your day captain as well as me on which date you plan to return.

If you have any concerns, please reach out to your captain and chiefs so we can assist you in a timely manner. I am always happy to answer questions about leaves, advancements and any other needs you may have!

Second Deputy Chief – Dale Bartolomeo – Absent - Report Posted

Happy June Everyone!

Review Training:

The month of June Review Training is on the topic of “Firefighter Rehab” Thank you, Mark Brenner for putting this months training together.

Please complete all monthly Review Training on a monthly basis.

EPCR's:

Please remember that all PCR's must be completed and faxed within four hours If anyone needs more then 24 hours to complete a PCR they must email myself and the chief with the reason why.

***** **INSURANCE INFO NEEDS TO BE OBTAINED** *****

We are seeing more and more PCR's without any insurance information! This needs to be corrected. It's one thing if you patient is found unconscious and there is no family or friend to provide the information, but, if the patient is sick or having chest pain or intoxicated or fell and

cut their arm, we need to try our best to obtain the insurance information. MVA's also please remember to gather the car insurance information.

Classes:

Anyone looking to take an EMT Refresher or original course there are multiple postings in the ready room.

If you signed up for registered for a CPAP or BLS 12 Lead class with the QR code please keep an eye out for an email with the information for an upcoming class

Huntington Hospital :

Crews should continue to give pre hospital notifications for severe and traumatic calls so the ER staff has time to prepare for your arrival.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Third Deputy Chief – William Connolly – Report Posted

Greetings Members,

Motor vehicle collisions are one of the leading causes of serious injury and death in the world. Whenever you get behind the wheel of a vehicle, never lose focus on what you are doing. It is not just for your safety but your crew and patients' as well.

Most of the motor vehicle collisions our members' have involve striking stationary vehicles or objects while attempting to pass. These are preventable. Others include, pulling out of parking spots and backing up carelessly. These are avoidable with extra time and attention from the driver. Below are some tips for safe driving.

First, perform a driver check out sheet at the start of your shift. This includes a pre inspection and checklist of the vehicle. If you notice any problems, report them to your Day Captain or me at Third.Deputy@HCFAS.org or calling (516) 457-0967.

In addition, use a spotter. If you need, use a crew member to assist backing up the ambulance especially when a stationary object could be struck. The driver and spotter should be able to communicate verbally or with hand signals. Do this safely and slowly. You have time.

Be aware of blind spots. Be vigilant and aware to always watch out for vehicles not seen in your mirrors. Take a moment to listen for other vehicles.

Always keep your distance while driving. Maintain a safe speed (no more than 10 mph over posted speed limit for emergency vehicles) and always leave enough space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.

Remember to always use a seat belt. It is the law for all passengers riding in the vehicle to buckle up.

These tips are crucial for avoiding minor and more serious collisions. Follow them closely.

Chief Dispatcher Michael Capotosto – Absent – No Report

Company 1 - Sunday Day Captain Jacob Levinsky – No Report

Company 2 - Monday Day Captain John Connors – Report Posted

Good Evening HCFAS Members,

Monday's had zero 24's for the month of May and that is thanks to all of you that continue to show up and those of you who answer up from home. This is a membership, a membership filled with families and people who care about others.

Our community is extremely grateful for what we do, it may not feel that way sometimes, but, they are. Each and every one of you are doing something very special by being here. We are the Angels of this community. This place can be filled with politics and drama, but, we are all here for the same reason. To keep a place we call home safe.

I would also like to thank all that come in every Monday to do their shift, as well as those who are superstars and this is just another day you help out. Sharyn Cullen is one of those members. She is filled with knowledge, skill and patience to teach others. Week after week she is here with Bob Biersack at 6:00 AM getting ready to respond by 7:00 AM. She is consistently training ACL's who are excelling because of her. She stays late a lot to help out. Thank you, Sharyn.

As always, we are looking for two full crews on the overnight as well as Crew leaders/Drivers on the 1100 shift. Anyone available please reach out to me. First Aiders and ACL's are always welcome!

Company 3 – Tuesday Day Captain Joseph Savaglio – Absent - Report Posted

I would like to thank Robert Loysch, Dana Silverstein, Shannon Gore, Jacqueline Callinan, Salvatore Esposito for their help on the 1100 shift. On the 2300 shift, I would like to thank Liz Mohr, John Menard, Eric Nazinitsky, Casey O'Riordan, Todd Atkin, Alex Bayer, Ori Baer, Marissa Lindler, Alexander Hastava and Brett Dowler for their help and assistance.

We are looking for still looking for help on the 1100 Shift. We need a 2nd due Crew leader. On the 2300 shift we are looking for a Permanent Dispatcher as well as Crew leaders and Drivers to help out whenever available. Please contact me if you can help!

Thank you to all the Tuesday members for their hard work and dedication this past month!

Just a reminder to check your finger in/outs on the SCM program as we are approaching the end of the quarter.

Don't forget to get up to date on your monthly Review Training too!

Anyone needing shifts we need you on Tuesdays so just text me when you would like to come in!

Company 4 - Wednesday Day Captain Dominic Heavey – Report Posted

Good Evening to All,

My condolences to the Tuesday 15:00 and the Thursday 0700 for the loss of your Crew member Tom O' Leary #1187 - he will be missed.

This past Wednesday, 6/8/2022 we did a total of 28 calls with no 24, well done to all crews. Thank you to all member's that answered up.

This Wednesday, 6/15/2022 I am looking for some help CL & DR for 0700, CL for 1100 shift, CL and DR for 2300 shift. If you can help out please text me at 631-742-9766.

As I have mention before I will be on Vacation between July 27th, 2022 and August 17th, 2022. I have some spots to be filled out on my Schedules. If you can help out that would be great. The schedules are posted on the white board. They will be posted in the ready room by Wednesday.

As a reminder to all providers PLEASE remember to get all the Insurance information on all calls.

Have a Safe Summer!

Company 5 - Thursday Day Captain Colin Weigele – Absent - Report Posted

Hello again everyone, Happy Summer! Welcome back to all the student members!

Thank you to everyone who has come in to help, I really appreciate it!

Welcome to new members Vera Naeaetsaari #1679 to the Thursday 1900 shift and Danny Portillo #1678 to the Thursday 2300 shift! We're so glad to have you and look forward to working with you!

As always, some help is still needed on Thursdays:

A Driver is needed on the 1100 1500 and 2300 shifts

A Crew Leader is needed on the 1100 shift

If anyone is able to help please let me know!

Again, thank you for all your help and amazing work.

Company 6 - Friday Day Captain Alexander Hastava – Report Posted

Happy Monday Everyone!

What a busy few 1100 shifts we've had these past two weeks; in total we had 8 calls this past Friday and 10 calls on the 3rd. One call in particular that stood out during the 1100 on June 3rd came in as a Delta Unresponsive which, on arrival, was a cardiac arrest secondary to an opiate overdose in a rural area. Led by member #1592 Keith Tamayo, several rounds of Narcan were administered along with Epi, Bicarb and Calcium (ordered through Medical Control). The patient was in PEA after several rhythm checks, but, a pulse was felt during two of them and subsequently the ROSC protocol was initiated; however, due to unfortunate circumstances, the patient regressed back into a PEA.

It should be known that the regulars who consistently help out on Fridays do not go unnoticed and are a tremendous support to the backbone of Company 6. These exemplary members are: #1592 Keith Tamayo (who has provided consistent volunteer ALS coverage on the 0700 and 1100 shifts for the past two months), #1361 Richie Cortes, #1423 Bob Biersack, #1150 Lorrie Stone, #1281 Seth Fischer, #1627 John Stevens, #1631 Matt Philip, #1582 Jackie Callinan and #1082 Spencer Newman. Thank you all for your continued support and willingness to step up and serve our community at large. The 1100 shift is desperately looking for a permanent 1st due Driver to replace Bob Biersack who tirelessly puts in more hours than he is regularly scheduled for to help fill in scheduling holes; in fact, the 1100 shift on Friday is not even one of the 4 other shifts he regularly helps out on. Additionally, a full 2nd due crew is needed weekly on the 2300 shift.

Lastly, this pertains to Company 6 Members: Please remember to join the GroupMe page that was sent out to you via email as this will serve as a primary modality for communication going forward. If you have any questions or need the link re-sent to your email, please reach out to me via email at friday.captain@hcfas.org or phone at (631) 923-7079.

Company 7 - Saturday Day Captain Steven Benjamin – Report Posted

We are all grieving the passing of Tom O'Leary. Tom was not just any member. He was one of the most active, respected, well liked and professional member of the entire department and had been for years. This is a huge loss for our agency and community

I commend the Board for its decision to bring the paid paramedic pay scale to more competitive levels. I can speak operationally how much this will benefit the agency. June 4th and June 11th were the first Saturdays since January 26th that I had medic coverage most of the day. We had 16 total medic hours in the month of May, all early in the day. One of the days with no medic we had 29 calls. If you look at my schedule last week, it was typical. There were 16 riding members age 21 or younger including 6 in the ACL program, 6 First Aiders and 4 CL's. That is a lot of inexperience with potential to be overwhelmed by even an involved BLS call. Even experienced members and I had only 3 CL's with over 5 years of experience (including me) will have that occasional call where we know almost immediately that we do not have the training or the certification to provide what the patient needs and what a medic can provide and we know that a

medic is not responding. It can be a jarring experience. Detractors to the program will say that a medic is truly only needed on 10-15% of calls. As an agency, our mission is to provide the best possible care for 100% of the calls. Having minimal or zero medic coverage as Saturdays has historically experienced most weeks in my 7 years with the agency does not bring us in line with our mission. I am a Risk Manager by profession, accustomed for planning for the worst case scenario. Lack of medic coverage is not proper planning. The recent surge in medic coverage is directly related to recruiting efforts and management of Alex Mullin bolstered by the premise of upcoming pay increases. New medics have been recruited, current medics plan to stay and do additional shifts and the recruiting pipeline has several quality candidates

Having a medic around also changes the culture with so many young members. Most of the young members are aspiring Doctors, Nurses, Physician assistants, Paramedics. etc., and some have current jobs in health care. The medic is someone they can bounce questions off, particularly of recent calls and go over certain skills with. A medic who is a good fit helps make everyone better and the medics appreciate the competency and camaraderie of our members and want to work here if the pay is competitive.

Since my last report, Members of the week:

May 14th – Matthew Philip

May 21st – Jeffrey Brenner

May 28th – Michael Jacoby

June 4th – Alexander Mullin

June 11th – John Stevens and Alyssa Sorenson

Stay Safe Everyone!

Delegate & Committee Reports:

LOSAP 2021 Points – Bob Franz

July 6, 2022 Golf Outing – Drawing at the June General Membership Meeting-Bob Franz
The Hubbinette Cowell Associates' 37th Annual Golf Outing will be held Wednesday July 6, 2022 at the Hamlet Wind Watch Golf Club Shotgun start at 8:00am followed by brunch and awards. A drawing is not necessary to decide a foursome since only 4 members have signed up for the drawing. Congratulations to Tom Lemp, Betty Wood, Andrew Giusto and Tom Schirripa. I hope you enjoy the event.

2022 HCFAS Scholarship – Deadline July 1st – Bob Franz

The Board of Directors approved the awarding of up to six (6) five hundred-dollar (\$500) Squad scholarships to be given to any non-probationary HCFAS Squad member in good standing or a direct family member (spouse, son, daughter, brother, sister) residing in the same home as the non-probationary member in good standing. A drawing will be held at the July 2022 General

Membership Meeting to select from those applicants who have applied to Director Bob Franz as of July 1st with the appropriate application form, as supplied by HCFAS, and with the required qualifying evidence. Director Franz will receive from the Chief, a declaration that those applicants are non-probationary Squad members in good standing or family members of non-probationary Squad members in good standing. These scholarships are to be an incentive for the applicants, who must submit documentation (academic transcripts) of at least a 2.0 grade point average for the preceding school year. The applicant must have been enrolled for and completed a minimum of six (6) college credit hours per semester (a minimum of two semesters is required) or the equivalent period at a vocational school. All 2021 scholarship winners are not eligible for the 2022 scholarship drawing. The application form is included in this Pulse and is posted on the bulletin board and website. The form can also be found on the mail folder counter at the Squad. Incomplete applications submitted to Director Franz will be returned and not processed – all required documentation must be attached.

All 2022 winners will be precluded from entering the drawing the following year.

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, 2022 (applications postmarked later than the deadline August 15, 2022 will not be considered). This scholarship is open to squad members and post 215 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.

Legislation – Bob Franz

NYS Senator Gaughran's and Assemblyman Steve Stern's proposed amended bill to extend the number of years for which you can earn a year of ambulance service credit from 40 years to up to 50 years passed in the Senate and Assembly and will be delivered to the Governor for signature during the summer or early fall.

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

Fund Drive Committee – Mary Brenner – To date, the Fund Drive has taken in donations totaling \$46,133.25

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

Special Events Committee – Brian Canty – The Annual HCFAS Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at the Driftwood Day Camp. Please sign up if you plan to attend The picnic.

Stand-By Committee – Kenney Cadet - There will be many upcoming Stand-bys that need to be staffed. Please be on look out for emails and sign up sheets in the ready room. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

In Closing:

Has everyone fingered in?

Thank you to those who have helped:

Social and Kitchen Committees: A Special thanks goes to Lisa Mohr, Bob Biersack, Angie Kalodoukas, Carol Nucci, Kevin McCann, Christy Stiles, Joanne Cunningham and Claire Tesoriero.

New Business:

Andrea Golinsky spoke about a recent article in Newsday regarding Traffic Safety. The Article focused on pedestrian safety and awareness. We should all proceed with caution and be more aware of instituting safety in our community.

David Mohr is looking for members to assist with Interviews. If anyone is interested in helping out with this task please contact him.

David Mohr inquired about the first quarterly allowance that was previously discussed at May's General Membership meeting. Chief Kaufman responded that the Board will try to give the members a \$20.00 allowance next quarter.

John Palmieri spoke about the rising cost of fuel that has increased 12% to 18% and made a statement regarding the raises that were promised to the paid Medics. He stated that there are seven (7) Medics at 168 hours. Discussions on this topic were held in open forum.

Old Business: None

Various Raffles:

Bottle of Red Wine – Sheon Baccus

Bottle of Red Wine – Robert Franz

Bottle of Red Wine – Kevin Solano

\$25 Applebee's Gift Card – Brian Canty

\$25 PF Chang's Gift Card – Heidi Magerle

\$25 Exxon Mobil Gas Gift Card – Elizabeth Mohr
\$25 BP Amoco Gas Gift Card – Nicole Terada
\$10 Subway Gift Card – Mary Sissini

Members in Attendance: Eligible Members 63, Probationary Members 17, Total: 80

Motion made by Roger Winter and seconded by Richard Gierbolini to adjourn the General Membership meeting at 2036 hours.
MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine A. Tedone

Assistant Secretary

Carol Nucci

Secretary

Draft posted: July 2022

Draft Approved: July 2022