

Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2024 General Membership Meeting
Date: July 8, 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	PRESENT
Treasurer James Mallilo	ABSENT	Third Deputy Chief John Stevens	ABSENT
Robert Franz	PRESENT	Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos	PRESENT
Eric Kramer	PRESENT	Sunday Co. 1 Capt. James Kelly	PRESENT
Lehti Laas	ABSENT	Monday Co. 2 Capt. Lily Poplawski	PRESENT
Elizabeth Wood	PRESENT	Tuesday Co. 3 Capt. Brandon Eybergen	PRESENT
		Wednesday Co. 4 Capt. Dominic Heavey	ABSENT
		Thursday Co. 5 Capt. Jacqueline de Bruin	ABSENT
		Friday Co. 6 Capt. Eve Pollack	PRESENT
		Saturday Co. 7 Capt. Matthew Philip	ABSENT

Welcome to the July 2024 General Membership Meeting.

The Meeting will come to order at 1935 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 53).

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Jeffrey O'Neill – Please take a moment to remember all those who have lost their lives in the service of our country.

Welcome to Assemblyman Steven Stern – On behalf of the residents of the State of New York Assemblyman Stern Presented HCFAS with a Pen Certificate. This Certificate was signed by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul. It is a way to extend gratitude and thanks to all EMS Members and First Responders. Mr. Stern presented the certificate with much pride.

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 Justin Chermak #1594 and his new wife Samantha, who were married on June 14th.

Congratulations to Suzette Crespo and Charles Lynch on the birth of their Baby Girl, June Olivia who was born on 6/22/24 weighing in at 7lb-1oz and 20” inches long. Best Wishes to Parents, Suzette and Charlie.

Get Well Wishes are being sent to our Treasurer, Jim Mallilo was hospitalized yesterday. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Get Well Wishes are being sent to Christina Denker who was briefly hospitalized and is now home. She is present at the meeting this evening.

President Fiona Witkowski – Report Posted

Thank you to everyone who came in on Independence Day and thank you to Brian Canty for arranging food for all the crews.

A questionnaire was sent out recently to gain your insight on what we are doing well and what we could be doing better. Thank you to all those who have submitted a response. If you have not responded, please do so as soon as possible. Answers are rated on a scale of one to five, five being the best. Everything is anonymous.

If you are interested in finding out what happened to your patient, you can scan to QR code in the EMS Room at the hospital. I will put another copy downstairs in the Ready Room.

The board approved the purchase of 50 tickets for members to attend the First Responder Appreciation Week game on Sunday September 15th. The Yankees will be playing the Boston Red Sox at Yankee Stadium. No transportation will be provided or reimbursed. Look for the signup sheet downstairs.

If you would like to be entered in the raffle for tickets to the baseball game on August 14th at 7:10 PM – Mets vs Oakland A's, please make sure you have a raffle ticket. There are two tickets with parking and two without.

Please sign up for the picnic on August 3rd. More about that later from Brian.

Secretary's Report – Brian Canty

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Jeffrey Brenner to approve the June 10, 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes as amended and posted.

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

Correspondence Received:

Thank you note received for a Stand by that we did for Deer Park Fire Department.

Treasurer's Report – James Mallilo – Report Posted

Chief's Report – William Connolly – Report Posted

In February 2023 I wrote about proposed zoning changes near MTA train facilities including Huntington. These zoning changes by Governor Hochul were to build high density housing near railroad stations in the NYC metro area. Luckily this proposal has been removed from the State budget for now.

Recent zoning changes within NYC (against NYFD advice) will allow for single-family homeowners to build accessory dwelling units (ADU) on their property. The current pilot program provides funding for basements, attics and garages to be converted into housing as well as allowing for new, smaller homes to be built in backyard spaces. In theory, this plan is designed to alleviate housing shortages throughout the city, however, some communities expressed concerns over endangering residents, stressing existing infrastructure, and creating a negative impact on water drainage. In 2021, flash flooding killed 13 people who were trapped in basement apartments in Queens. Rear tenements could be expected in only certain parts of the city, but now units in any location may include rear private dwellings that did not previously exist.

Legal or illegal dwelling conversions are not new to NYC or Huntington and can be expected by EMS personnel. The Chief's office will continue to monitor housing zoning changes in our district. I invite you to share any information you have on this topic.

Please sign up for the Huntington Manor Parade July 19th and standbys July 18-22.

Have a safe and enjoyable July 4th and a happy and healthy summer.

First Deputy Chief – Michael Como – Report Posted

Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying summer! All of your efforts at HCFAS are appreciated. Please make sure to take care of yourselves too. Stay hydrated in this heat. Always feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. My phone number is below.

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 can 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

- The second quarter of 2024 has concluded. Quarter 3 begins July 1st and goes until September 30th. Each member needs to complete 48 shift-hours during each quarter. 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 automatically suspended, in accordance with the SOP's and By-Laws for two weeks. 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).

- Gift card season is around the corner. Remember that you need to have completed 36 complete shifts by December 1st. More information can be found in the SOPS Article X, Section 1, 17G (pg 72).
- I have been sending and will continue to send out **weekly shift needs emails**. These emails contain specific shift needs identified by our Captains. If you need to make-up hours, these shifts are the best shifts to help on as they provide much needed support to HCFAS operations. Additionally, Company 8 members should be targeting these shifts.
- Also, a reminder to Company 8 members that the new SOP is in effect regarding 16 hours per month.

Stand-bys:

A huge shout out to the standby committee for their great work is in order. Kenney, Suzie and Peyton are doing a fantastic job! Please volunteer for a standby if you are able.

Yaphank FD training standby season is here. These standbys are a great opportunity to work with our 2nd Division partners and to foster a closer working relationship between departments. Please reach out to Kenney, Suzie, or Peyton if you are available to help.

Huntington Manor:

We will be meeting HMFD HQ at 1815 hours

-Aug 21st 1900 hours

-Sept 18th 1900 hours

-Oct 16th 1900 hours

-Nov 13th 1900 hours

Huntington Fire Department:

We will be meeting at HFD HQ 45 minutes before the start of each training.

-July 11th 1900 hours

-Sept 22nd 0900 hours

-Oct 13th 0900 hours

HMFD fair standby sign up sheets posted in the ready room! Please sign up if you can help.

HCFAS Paid Medic Program:

No Updates

Second Deputy Chief – Keith Rubenstein – Report Posted

The July review training is out it's in the new protocol updates. Thank you Mark Brenner. The new protocol video is on the website please watch and sign that you have completed it.

164
165 Please remember to keep hydrated.
166

167 **Third Deputy Chief – John Stevens – Absent – Report Posted**

168 Good Evening All,

169 This month currently all our fleet is having more issue than normal. There are some fairly
170 significant issues that need to be addressed. Thank you to those of you that helped out by letting
171 me know. It makes the process a lot smoother. If possible, can you please try and take a photo or
172 video of what is happening with the rig as it makes it easier to explain to the mechanics. We will
173 be losing Unit19 this week for a good bit of time to have an engine repair completed.

174 This month, new protocols were implemented and launched by NYS. Dr. Neubert was gracious
175 enough to cover a lot of the topics. For those in attendance, you were made aware of a few new
176 medications that will be implemented on the ALS level. While we are still waiting on regional
177 accreditation on some, you will start to see the rest rollout this week. Please look for an email
178 from me with more specifics.

179 A Lot of providers have recently been mentioning that they dont want to bring the red/blue bag
180 into a call because its too heavy and cumbersome. In an effort to improve patient care, we will be
181 adding a small “first in” bag as well as a separate O2 bag containing the quick essentials for
182 patients in need. We should never be walking in a call with empty hands or the “Toughbook of
183 life”. The red bags will also be left on the rig in their normal spot for the time being, if that is
184 your preference to use. Those will also be implemented this week for you.

185 Please let me know if you have any feedback as far as contents (Adding or removing).

186 Any concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out. You may reach me via Text or call at
187 631-626-9854 or by email Third.deputy@hcfas.org.

188

189 **Chief Dispatcher – Melissa Anastos – Report Posted**

190 **2024**

191 Calls through 7/7/24: 3322

192 24’s through 7/7/24: 71

193 Average 2 time for June: 3:12

194 **2023**

195 Calls through 7/7/23: 3063

196 24’s through 7/7/23: 9

197 Average 2 time for June: 3:00

198

199 We had 20 signal “24’s” in June.

200 Year to date, 59 of our “24’s” have been between 0700 and 2300. We have only had 12 “24’s”
201 on the 2300 shift. If anyone would like a pager, please leave me a note in my mailbox, or
202 text/email me.

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

205

206 **Company 1 - Sunday Day Captain James Kelly – Report Posted**

207

208 Welcome to Summer HCFAS!

209

210 I hope everyone is doing well, keeping cool/hydrated and remembering their sunscreen.

211

212 With summer upon us it is critical to remember that while operating in the field, we are
213 always exposed to the elements with heat being the biggest consideration. Please make
214 sure that when you are on duty drink lots of water, wear clothes that aren’t too heavy
215 (obviously this is hard with all of our gear) and whatever you do, don’t overexert
216 yourselves. The safety of our crews is paramount to ensure that we are able to provide
217 care to others and we can’t help our patients if a provider is suffering from heat exhaustion
218 or worse.

219

220 Sundays have been rocking it! All of the people who have stepped up to help out have been
221 making Sundays run very well despite the scheduling challenges. I want to begin by thanking
222 Tom Schirippa, Jeff O’Neill, Chelsea Keatley and Dany Portillo for coming in week after week
223 and helping out. Captain Lily Poplawski and Chief Melissa Anastos, both Company 8 members
224 for their weekly help on our 1900. Thanks to Will Burton who spent a few months with us crew
225 leading on our 1900 as well. You have all earned yourselves a spot on the Sunday All-Star team.
226 And of course, thank you to the countless members who have helped out on Sundays over the
227 past few months. Every one of you has made a huge difference and seeing all of the help and
228 comradery on Sundays just helps to highlight a big part of what makes this place special.

229

230 Congratulations to Peyton Kalb who is our newest Crew Leader! We are very proud of all you
231 have accomplished and are looking forward to leading your crews in the field!

232

233 Congratulations to Kevin DiDonato who has passed dispatch training and is now on the road
234 as a First Aider!

235

236 **Sundays are always in need of lots of help. We are in need of:**

237

238 **0700: (2) Crew Leaders**

239 **1100: Permanent Dispatcher and 2 Drivers**

240 **1500: Crew Leader**

241 **1900: Crew Leader**

**2300: Full Crew (please note a Driver/Crew Leader will also
be needed towards the middle of August)**

Thank you so much for all that you do. Stay safe, stay cool and stay awesome.

Company 2 - Monday Day Captain Lily Poplawski – Report Posted

Happy July!

We have unfortunately had 5 more 24s in June for a total of 12. (4 on the 0700 1 on the 1900) These are frequent problem shifts. It is no surprise there are many 24s with all the emails, notifications, pages and postings that go out..... Every single week.

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

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

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

0700: CL

1100: CL/DR/FULL CREW

1900: FULL CREW

2300: DR & FULL CREW

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 RT's to come off 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 631-374-5663 or at Monday.Captain@hcfasg.org.

Company 3 – Tuesday Day Captain Brandon Eybergen – No Report

Company 4 – Wednesday Day Captain – Dominic Heavey – Absent – Report Posted

Good Evening to All.

Sorry, I cannot be at the meeting tonight. I do not have much to report tonight, so it is as posted.

Firstly, thank you to all members on Company 4 for all their hard work during the Second Quarter, we had a very busy quarter. To all those that came in and did extra shifts/calls your work did not go unnoticed.

As always please drive carefully and drink plenty of liquids (water).

As I am away this week I really need a DRIVER on my 1500-1900 shift this Wednesday.

As I promised, just as a reminder Christmas and New Years Day falls on Wednesday this year. Start planning your time as I will be looking for HELP. More to follow.

Thank you and keep up the good work.

Company 5 - Thursday Day Captain Jacqueline de Bruin – Absent – No Report

Company 6 - Friday Day Captain Eve Pollack – Report Posted

Hello Everyone! Happy Summer!

Thank you to all company 6 members and beyond for keeping the whole day running smoothly and covering practically every shift! **July review training** is on BLS protocol changes, which went into effect July 1st, 2024. It is imperative (and required!) that we are all aware of and implement these changes. Please complete this training as soon as possible to ensure that we continue to provide the highest quality care. A warm welcome to member #1738, Andrew Noueihed who you can find on the Friday 1100 shift!

For this week, a CL is needed on the 0700, 1100 shifts and 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

Good Evening Members,

Thank you Michael Vincent Terry Jr, John Stevens, Jackie de Bruin, Jake Levinsky, Lauren Grosner, Peyton Kaulb, Frank Paccione, Sofia Mercuri, Daniel Alnwick, Suzanne Philip, Mike Capotosto, Evelyn and Kemberlin Hernandez and Luke Weiner for helping out on 2300 shifts this month.

I also want to give a big shout-out to Alex Bayer for running various scenarios last Saturday 2300.

Company 7 needs a CL on the 1100, a CL and a full crew on the 1500 and a CL/DR on the 1900 shift.

If anyone wants to come on down for a shift, please 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. 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

At the request of the Town of Huntington the NYS legislature passed a home rule bill which extends provisions relating to certain real property to be conveyed to the town of Huntington by the NYS Department of Transportation for one year (December 21, 2024). The 4.16 acres includes the commuter lot next to HCFAS.

HCFAS Scholarship

There will be a drawing this evening for six (6) \$500 Scholarships approved by the Board of Directors.

Mets Tickets Raffle

There will be a raffle for 2 sets of 2 tickets for Mets vs. Oakland A's game on 8/14/24 at 7:00 PM. Free parking to the first winner. Courtesy of Hubbinette Cowell Associates.

Suffolk REMSCO

Suffolk REMSCO meeting is tomorrow evening at 7:00 PM at Suffolk EMS in Yaphank.

2024 HCFAS Scholarship Winners:

Congratulations to the six scholarship recipients: Angie Mata #1696, Monica Rios Reyes #1693, Landary Rivas Argueta #1653, Alexander Bayer #1670, son of Paul Bayer #1505, Tiffanie Romano, spouse of Thomas Romano #939 and Linnea Wong, daughter of Karen Sprague Wong #945.

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

CME Committee – Pamela Brenner-Davis – Certification is valid for Four (4) years now. All certified paperwork must be submitted within sixty (60) days and it MUST be submitted in a timely manner. Please reach out to Pam if you have any concerns or questions.

Explorer Post 215 – Kevin McCann – There will be a Fundraiser Car Wash at HCFAS HQ On Saturday, July 20, 2024 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Please come out and support our Explorers. Thank You!

Fund Drive Committee – Mary Brenner & Joan Florio - As of July 2, 2024 the Fund Drive has collected total donations in the amount of \$60,841.00.

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

Special Events Committee – Brian Canty – NY Yankees vs Boston Red Sox. If you signed up for the Yankees game and have not submitted your checks, please do so by Friday, July 12th. Anyone who has not submitted their check(s) by then will be removed from the list. Thanks in advance.

The HCFAS Picnic will be held at the Driftwood Day Camp on August 3, 2024 (Rain or Shine) from 11:30 until 3:00 PM. (Food will be served until 2:30 PM). Signup Cut off is Monday, July 22, 2024 at 9:00 PM. There will be lots of Fun and Games.

Stand-By Committee – Kenney Cadet, Peyton Kalb & Suzanne Philip - There are multiple Standbys coming up. The committee needs a lot of coverage and is seeking assistance from any member who may be available to help out. Please see the sign up sheets posted downstairs. Any and all assistance will be greatly appreciated.

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, Kevin McCann, Christy Stiles

New Business:

Mark Brenner - HCFAS is hosting a Rapid BLS Core Content CME course sponsored by SCEMS at HCFAS, Monday, August 12 – Friday, August 16. Contact SCEMS to register (631)-852-5080. To enroll in the CME program, contact Pamela Brenner-Davis at pamelabrenner@gmail.com. Marks also asks that you reach out to your fellow members to let them know that he will be teaching the class.

New BLS protocols will come into effect on July 1, 2024. They can be accessed on the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of EMS website or clicking on the protocols tab of www.suffolkremsco.com.

Michael Jacoby – Inquired about core course protocols. Mark replied that because the Protocols have changed the course content will change as well.

Eve Pollack – Please be mindful of any obvious signs that a patient may be in emotional and/or mental distress. It is imperative that you notify a hospital staff member so that they may reach out to a Social Worker to assist a patient who may be in distress and may need to speak to a professional.

Old Business: None

Various Raffles:

Cheesecake Factory Gift Card (\$25) – Frank Paccione

Lowes Gift Card (\$25) – Andrew Mesnick

Target Gift Card (\$25) – Heidie Magerle

Uber Eats Gift Card (\$25) – Richard Rudolph

Ocean Bottle – Julianna Lewandowski

Ocean Bottle – Mary Kate Serpe

Mets Tickets with Parking - Helene

Mets Tickets/No Parking – Vera Ehlers

Members in Attendance: Eligible Members 53, Probationary Members 11, Total: 64

Motion made by Pamela Brenner-Davis and seconded by Mark Brenner to adjourn the General Membership meeting at 2015 hours.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

468

469 *Christine A. Tedone*

470 Assistant Secretary

471

472 *Brian Canty*

473 Secretary

474

475 Draft posted: August 4, 2024

476 Draft Approved:

2024 GMM Attendance	J	F	M	A	M	June	July
President Fiona Witkowski	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
Vice President Seth Fischer	A	P	P	P	P	P	A
Secretary Brian Canty	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
Treasurer James Mallilo	P	P	P	A	P	P	S
Robert Franz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Eric Kramer	A	P	A	P	P	A	A
Lehti Laas	P	A	P	A	P	P	A
Elizabeth Wood		P	P	P	P	P	P
Chief William Connolly	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
First Deputy Chief Michael Como	P	P	A	A	P	P	P
Second Deputy Chief Keith Rubenstein	A	P	P	P	A	A	P
Third Deputy Chief John Stevens	P	A	A	P	A	A	A
Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos	A	A	A	P	A	P	A
Sunday Co. 1 Capt. Grant Werner	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
Monday Co. 2 Capt. Lily Poplawski	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
Tuesday Co. 3 Capt. Brandon Eybergen	A	A	A	P	A	P	A
Wednesday Co. 4 Capt. Dominic Heavey	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
Thursday Co. 5 Capt. Jacqueline de Bruin	P	P	A	A	A	A	A
Friday Co. 6 Capt. Eve Pollack	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Saturday Co. 7 Capt. Matthew Philip	P	P	P	P	P	P	A

477