

Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2024 General Membership Meeting
Date: March 11, 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	ABSENT
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	ABSENT	Sunday Co. 1 Capt. Grant Werner	PRESENT
Lehti Laas	PRESENT	Monday Co. 2 Capt. Lily Poplawski	ABSENT
Elizabeth Wood	PRESENT	Tuesday Co. 3 Capt. Brandon Eybergen	ABSENT
		Wednesday Co. 4 Capt. Dominic Heavey	PRESENT
		Thursday Co. 5 Capt. Jacqueline de Bruin	ABSENT
		Friday Co. 6 Capt. Eve Pollack	PRESENT
		Saturday Co. 7 Capt. Matthew Philip	PRESENT

Welcome to the March General Membership Meeting. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all our members.

Meeting called to order at 1934 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 66).

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Robert Franz – Please remain standing to acknowledge all those that have lost their lives in the service of our country

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

Get Well Wishes, Condolences and Prayers:

It is with deep sadness that the Operational Officers and Board of Directors announce the passing of Mary Connolly, mother of Chief Bill Connolly. Please keep Bill 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 former Member, Eric Johnson #712 on March 8, 2024. Eric is the brother of Carolyn Mullen. Please keep Carolyn and her family in your thoughts and prayers. Services for Eric will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM at A.L. Jacobsen's Funeral Home. There will be no Squad services. Phone calls are welcome.

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

25 Years of Service:

Fernando Rivadeneira #965

Fernando Rivadeneira #965 – Twenty-Five (25) Years of Service:

I joined HCFAS 25 years ago because my High School Guidance Counselor said that I should do more community service. At that time I thought community service was only for felons.

Gladly enough, 25 years later I've realized that the squad is full of compassionate, selfless providers looking to give back.

Had I remained on Long Island, I'd still be riding Company 8, Saturday Overnights. Sadly, I'm Administrative only. The EMS background that I have gained through serving at HCFAS is unparalleled. The fulfillment from volunteering is priceless.

I'd like to thank the entire membership for their benevolent service to my hometown. Thank you all.

Congratulations and thank you, Fernando for your twenty-five years of dedicated and loyal service to the Huntington Community First Aid Squad.

Secretary's Report – Brian Canty

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Mark Brenner to approve the February 12, 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes as amended and posted.

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

Vice President Seth Fischer – Report Posted

Good Evening,

All Committees are going well nothing to report at this time.

If any Administrative Members are looking for additional hours our Recruitment Committee is looking for support with various tasks. Please reach out to Lehti Laas or myself and we can point you in the right direction.

Thank you!

President Fiona Witkowski – Report Posted

Thank you to everyone who took part in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The day started off warm and sunny and then became cold and damp, but we managed to finish before the rain began in earnest.

Hubinette Cowell has kindly offered us tickets to the Mets game on April 3rd at 7:00 PM. If you would like to be entered in the raffle to see the New York Mets play the Detroit Tigers please make sure you pick up a raffle ticket from Chrissie Tedone.

At the last board meeting we approved the hiring of two new paramedics, Dimitra Geraghty and Jonathan Gorst. Please give them a warm HCFAS welcome when you meet them.

We are about to launch the Mobile Response System from SCM. This App is similar to Bryx, but because it is connected to our dispatching system, when you respond to a signal 3 from the app, it is able to recognize who you are and whether you are a Driver, Crew Leader, First Aider, etc., Your response is logged on the dispatch screen and this saves making and receiving phone calls when the Dispatcher is already busy. The added advantage of this new system is that you can look up all your reports from your phone: Review trainings, shifts, LOSAP, member details, etc., If you have questions, please see Keith Rubenstein or Jim Mallilo.

Within the next ten days the alarms on two rear doors will be activated – the rear entrance and the door by South 1. If these are propped open an alarm will sound after about three minutes. Please be diligent about closing all doors for the security of our building and the safety of our members.

Treasurer's Report – James Mallilo – Report Posted

Chief's Report – William Connolly – Report Posted

Greetings Members,

I hope you had a nice Presidents Day. We will be participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 10th at 1400 hours. The parade route will begin just north of the Huntington Train Station along New York Avenue before turning west onto Main Street and ending at Saint Patrick's Church. We will be meeting at HQ in Class "A" uniforms no later than 1245 hours. If you do not have a Class A uniform, you may wear a white button-down shirt, blue flat pants and a red squad jacket with black shoes. The sign-up sheet is in the ready room.

You can now sign up for a FRES daily briefing for Suffolk County. This was reserved for officers but is now available to all members. FRES recommends that departments encourage all members to register to receive the FRES daily briefing and important communication by registering at the forms link provided below. <https://forms.office.com/g/BTQjagyqwj> Muru med is the official EMS app of New York State.

The New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS and Trauma Systems has partnered with Muru to ensure providers across the State can get the information they need to treat their patients. Muru has NYS and Suffolk County protocols and policies both BLS & ALS, hospital categories, directions to hospitals, a calculator for dosage of medication and much more. This app is free to EMS members. Below is the link and it can also be found on the Suffolk REMSCO website. <http://www.murumed.com>.

Length of Service Awards:

5 Years:

Colin Weigele #1553

15 Years:

Suzie Biagi #1251

Sheryl Roach #1253

First Deputy Chief – Michael Como – Absent - Report Posted and Given by Captain Eve Pollack

As we approach the end of the first quarter, I would like to extend a special thanks to those that have been helping me with my First Deputy responsibilities. Many thanks are in order to Mary Winter, Kathy Hayes and Meg Callinan for their tremendous assistance in the Chief's office. Also, thank you to Ryane Como for spending time showing Meg and I how to input personnel changes into the computer system. We greatly appreciate your time and patience.

First Quarter Hours:

We are in the first quarter of calendar year '24, which ends on March 31st. As stated in our SOPs, 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.

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.

Driver Training/Driving:

If you are interested in becoming a Driver, place a photocopy of your driver license in my mailbox. Once I receive your license I will run it in the DMV database, it will be discussed at the next Officer's 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.

Standbys:

I'm working with the standby committee to come up with an incentive program like we have done in the past. We are most likely going to do a raffle where each standby you do gets you an entry into the raffle.

Yaphank FD training standby season is around the corner! Keep an eye out for the sign-up sheet's downstairs in the ready room and please sign up if you are available. These standbys are a great opportunity to work with our 2nd Division partners and to foster a closer working relationship between departments.

Huntington Manor: We will be meeting HMFD HQ at 1815 Hours:

April 3rd 1900 hours

May 15th 1900 hours

June 12th 1900 hours

Aug 21st 1900 hours

Sept 18th 1900 hours

Oct 16th 1900 hours

Nov 13th 1900 hours

HCFAS Paid Medic Program:

Welcome to our two newest paid medics Jonathan Gorst and Demi Geraghty. Please keep an eye out for them, introduce yourselves and make them feel welcome at HCFAS.

Second Deputy Chief – Keith Rubenstein –

Just a reminder to please keep up on your monthly review trainings. Also we have 2 CME's coming up this month, March 25 Will be on Treating patients with Disabilities. On March 28, Trauma Protocols.

Third Deputy Chief – John Stevens – Absent - Report Posted

Hello All,

Currently all units are in service and operating. If you are using 16, please make sure you are using a spotter to back up until the camera system is fixed (Parts are on back order).

We have implemented a new seal system for the ALS cabinets as well as BLS meds. The Paramedic staff has been tasked with performing monthly checks on all the ALS modules and BLS meds to maintain compliance. If you see a different seal color than normal, do not be alarmed. These are the beginning steps to ensure our ambulances remain compliant with NYS and for the safety of our patients. If you need to break a seal to use medication, please replace the med used and reseal with the normal red ones that are in the closet.

You will notice the tops of the monitors are sealed. Please do not break them. There are ALS supplies in there that are needed and accounted for. All the cuffs, rolls of paper and pediatric SpO2 stickies can be found in the back pouch of the monitor.

Please continue to complete your Ambulance and Driver check outs as you have been. Please do not use the drawers in ambulance as dumping grounds for supplies. I went through the fleet and found an unnecessary amount of supplies in them.

If an ambulance is marked Out of Service, please do not put it back into service without having a Line Officer/ALS provider confirm its status first.

Thank you again for all that you do and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Chief Dispatcher – Melissa Anastos – Absent – Report Posted

2023:

Calls through 3/10: 1,093

24's: 2

Average (2) Time: 2:59 minutes

2024:

Calls through 3/10: 1,166

24's: 29

Average (2) Time: 3:01 minutes

Out of the (29) "24's" this year, (8) were taken back by us, which gives us an actual total number of 24's of 21. Out of those 21, we needed a Full Crew for 11 calls, a Crew Leader for 1 call, a Driver for (6) calls and a CL or DR for (3) calls.

We have had (5) 24's between 0100 and 0200; and 9 24's between 0900-1200. The rest are scattered throughout the day.

We have had (9) 24's on Fridays, (7) on Mondays, (4) on Sundays, (3) on Tuesdays and (2) on the other three days of the week.

We are obtaining new pagers due to not having any more! If there is anyone that would like one please let me know at chief.dispatcher@hcfas.org.

Thank you to all of my Dispatchers for stepping up, coming in and covering when needed!

Company 1 - Sunday Day Captain Grant Werner – Report Posted

Help is Needed on the following shifts:

0700 Shift - Full Crew

1100 Shift - 1 Driver, 1 Full Crew

1500 Shift - 2nd Due Driver/Crew Leader

1900 Shift - 2nd Due Crew Leader

2300 Shift - Dispatcher, 2 Full Crews

Company 2 - Monday Day Captain Lily Poplawski – Absent - Report Posted

Happy March!

Thank you all for the help during yesterday's parade setup. Please be on the lookout for regular work details as the weather gets warmer on Mondays.

Congratulations to member #1722 Erin Chicas who has joined our Monday 2300 shift.

The quarter is coming to the end very soon and these are the following shifts consistently open on Mondays. Please consider picking some up as we may be forced towards looking into paid BLS supplementation here at HCFAS. We have quite a bit of 24s and it's early in the year, so please consider picking up a shift or two.

Help is Needed on the following shifts:

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 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 reach me on my personal cell at 631-374-5663 or email me at Monday.Captain@hcfas.org.

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

Happy March,

I hope to see everyone at the Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade, on Sunday, March 10, (which is the best parade) and I hope to see members marching with us.

If you aren't marching with us, may I ask why not? It's a fun activity, it engages our Department personnel, it's a break from the stressful EMS calls and it allows us to meet new Department members and adjoining 2nd Division Department members.

To follow up on this, what can we as a Department to do better? From Operational tasks from each Captain to the President of the First Aid Squad, what do we need to do? We, at the operational level are looking for multiple ways to tackle this challenge which, at its core, is staffing ambulances. Not even day to day but, shift to shift. Many times, I see the "clock watchers" waiting patiently to leave the building. What can be done to change this?

The work we do is impactful and many members remember what got us through the door

as a probationary member to where we are now.

On any given day we are responding to our own town's residents, our neighbors, our own families on possibly the worst days of their lives. May we be reminded to continue to practice excellence and high quality patient care. To be thankful to be able to help others.

The Mental Health Struggle - We continue to lose more to the mighty and mounting struggle of mental health, recently Suffolk County Civil Service, from the Sheriff's Department, the Probation office and even the SCPD 2nd Precinct lost within a span of weeks four officers, with two of them being police officers.

May we Remember:

Deputy Sheriff Joseph Gallo
SCPD 2nd Precinct Officer David Pendola
SCPD 2nd Precinct. Sergeant Stephen Surian
Suffolk County Probation Officer - (Not named)

https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/mental_health.htm

Attached above is a link for Mental Health for EMS providers.

If you or anyone you know is struggling, please do not feel ashamed to reach out to anyone or myself, you are worthy of life and the world is a better place with you in it.

Snow days are fun days. On Tuesday, 2/13/24, we had snow in the forecast but that didn't stop Captain Lily Poplawski from going on a gluten free food run at the best themed restaurant in Huntington, Stella Blue, a Grateful Dead themed breakfast spot.

Company 4 - Wednesday Day Captain Dominic Heavey – Report Posted

First let me start off by thanking everyone on Company 4 for showing up on their shift, also a big thanks goes to all other members who helped out during the month of February.

Year to date we have had (2) 24s on Wednesday shifts.

It is with deep regret that I announce the passing of Former Member Eric Johnson, #712, brother of member #72 Carolyn Mullen. Services to be held at Jacobsen's Funeral Home in Huntington on March 12, 2024 from 5:00 PM until 9:00 PM. There will be no Squad Services.

Welcome back to Member #929 Betsy Smith who is on the 1900-2300 shift, Betsy is currently enrolled in an EMT Class.

A big thank you to all that turned out for the St. Patrick's Parade yesterday. Everyone looked great. Help is needed on the 1500 and 2300 Shifts. Drivers and Crew Leaders are needed for these shifts.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Saint Patrick's Day on Sunday, March 17th, 2024.

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

Matt Philip said Thanks everyone for coming out for the parade yesterday

Company 6 - Friday Day Captain Eve Pollack – Report Posted

Hello everyone and Happy March!

It is crazy to think that we are already going into the third month of 2024. I cannot wait for it to finally be Spring! Thank you all for making 2024 as great as it has been. Congratulations to member Colin Weigele (#1553) who has passed the NCLEX! Your future patients are very lucky to have you. Another congratulations is due for Christina Denker #1719, who is now officially a Dispatcher.

Now on to some logistics and the fun stuff :

A third due Driver is needed on the 1100 Shift

A third due Crew Leader is needed on the 1900 Shift

A Crew Leader and a Driver are needed on the 2300 Shift

Please let me know if you are available to do some or any of those shifts. First Aiders and Acting Crew leaders are always welcome so, come on down and spend your Fridays with us. Get to know what Company 6 is all about.

Thank you everyone for all that you do. Your unwavering dedication is noticed and appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all on Fridays.

If you have any questions you may reach me anytime by my phone at 516-860-3980.

Company 7 - Saturday Day Captain Matthew Philip – Report Posted

Thank you, to Ex-Chief David Kaufman, Deputy Chief John Stevens, Captain Jackie de Bruin, Jake Levinsky, Lauren Groser, Suzanne Philip, Mike Capotosto, Benjamin Curry, Peyton Kalb, Natalie Amaya, Evelyn and Kemberlin Hernandez for helping out on the 2300 shifts this month. Thank you to all members who came in on a Saturday.

A big shout out to Mike Capotosto and Ben Curry on covering 9 calls on the 2/17/24 overnight, great job!

Saturdays need a permanent Crew Leader on the 0700 and 1500 shifts. The overnight is in need of a Full Crew. If anyone is interested, please contact me. The Saturday schedule is looking good. 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 please give me a call or text me at 631-553-3135.

Delegate & Committee Reports:

LOSAP 2023 Points – Bob Franz

The Final 2023 LOSAP Point listing is posted on the bulletin board. The final LOSAP point listing will be submitted to the Town of Huntington later this week for Town Board Approval.

NYS Income Tax Claim for Volunteer Firefighters' & Ambulance Workers' \$200 Refundable Credit for 2023

You can claim the \$200 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.

10 % Property Tax Exemption

All bulk renewals and new applications for 2024/2025 tax year were delivered to the Town Assessor's office on February 28, 2024. Approximately 130 members should be receiving the property tax exemption for the 2024/2025 tax year.

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 February 27, 2024 the Fund Drive has collected donations totaling \$3,809.00.

NYSVARRA – Andrea Golinsky – The Ambulance Volunteer Association has enrolled 263 HCFAS members this year.

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

Recruitment and Retention Committee – Lehti Laas, Michelle Franco & Noah Ramos – The RRC is seeking for help with this committee. If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Lehti Laas. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

Special Events Committee – Ann Maloney – The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 30th. The Hunt and Easter Basket distribution will take place at Jefferson Primary School, 253 Oakwood Road, Huntington, NY 11743 at 10:00 AM. You can sign up until March 22nd, so if you have not signed up please do so before then.

Richard Stone – Pancake Fundraiser Breakfast – The Huntington High School Marching Band will be hosting a Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast at the Halesite Fire Department on Sunday, April 7, 2024 between 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Please come out and support them.

Standby Committee – Peyton Kalb & Suzanne Philip – Members are needed for upcoming Standbys. Sign up sheets will be posted in the Ready Room. Any help will be 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 Kalodukas, Carol Nucci, Gregory Orr, Christy Stiles and Claire Tesoriero

New Business: David Mohr –

Mentioned the absence of a Board Member from the General Membership Meeting. He stated that all Board Members are required to attend the meetings and if they are not in attendance they are in violation of the By-Laws.

Suzie Biagi thanked everyone for all their support.

Old Business: None

Various Raffles:

Bottle of Red Wine – Ona Mastrionni

Bottle of White Wine – Carol Nucci

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

Chipotle Gift Card (\$25) – Christine Tedone

Exxon Mobil Gas Card (\$25) – Brian Canty

Home Depot Gift Card (\$25) – Dominic Heavey

Mets Tickets/Parking – Kyoko Saito

Mets Tickets– Christine Tedone

Members in Attendance: Eligible Members 61, Probationary Members 10, Total: 71

Motion made by Dominic Heavey and seconded by Paul Shapiro to adjourn the General Membership meeting at 2001 hours.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine A. Tedone

Assistant Secretary

Brian Canty

Secretary

Draft posted: March 28, 2024

Draft Approved: April 8, 2024

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488
489
490
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2024 GMM Attendance	Jan	Feb	Mar
President Fiona Witkowski	P	P	P
Vice President Seth Fischer	A	P	P
Secretary Brian Canty	P	P	P
Treasurer James Mallilo	P	P	P
Robert Franz	P	P	P
Eric Kramer	A	P	A
Lehti Laas	P	A	P
Elizabeth Wood		P	P
Chief William Connolly	P	P	P
First Deputy Chief Michael Como	P	P	A
Second Deputy Chief Keith Rubenstein	A	P	P
Third Deputy Chief John Stevens	P	A	A
Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos	A	A	A
Sunday Co. 1 Capt. Grant Werner	P	A	P
Monday Co. 2 Capt. Lily Poplawski	P	P	A
Tuesday Co. 3 Capt. Brandon Eybergen	A	A	A
Wednesday Co. 4 Capt. Dominic Heavey	P	P	P
Thursday Co. 5 Capt. Jacqueline de Bruin	P	P	A
Friday Co. 6 Capt. Eve Pollack	P	P	P
Saturday Co. 7 Capt. Matthew Philip	P	P	P

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