

Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2023 General Membership Meeting
Date: September 11, 2023

Officers:

President Fiona Witkowski	PRESENT
Vice President Thomas Lemp	ABSENT
Secretary Ryane Como	ABSENT
Treasurer James Mallilo	ABSENT
Jeffrey Daniels	ABSENT
Robert Franz	PRESENT
Eric Kramer	PRESENT
Lehti Laas	PRESENT
Chief William Connolly	PRESENT
First Deputy Chief Kathryn Donegan	PRESENT
Second Deputy Chief Dale Bartolomeo	ABSENT
Third Deputy Chief Keith Rubenstein	ABSENT
Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos	ABSENT
Sunday Co. 1 Captain James Kelly	PRESENT
Monday Co. 2 Captain Lily Poplawski	PRESENT
Tuesday Co. 3 Captain Brandon Eybergen	PRESENT
Wednesday Co. 4 Captain Dominic Heavey	ABSENT
Thursday Co. 5 Captain Jacqueline de Bruin	PRESENT
Friday Co. 6 Captain John Stevens	ABSENT
Saturday Co. 7 Captain Matthew Philip	PRESENT

Meeting called to order at 1934 hours

Acting Secretary Lehti Laas reported to President Fiona Witkowski that the required quorum of 50 members are present per the sign in sheet (eligible members 64).

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Jeffrey O'Neill - Let us take a moment of silence to remember all those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Today is the 22nd anniversary of 911. Let us pray for the over 2000 victims of the tragic earthquake in Morocco.

Today marks the passage of 22 years since September 11, 2001. That tragic morning began like any other, with millions of people getting ready for work, taking their children to school and going about their day. What took place only hours later was unimaginable and we collectively watched in horror and fear as our world was changed forever. We lost family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and loved ones. As these horrific events unfolded we made a promise to never forget. So, let's take a moment of silence and remember the 2,983 men, woman and children killed in the attacks on September 11, 2001.

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.

Congratulations, Condolences and Get Well wishes:

Our condolences to Ona Mastroianni on the passing of her Mother in Lithuania. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to remain with Ona and her Family.

Our condolences to Lily Poplawski on the passing of her Uncle George DiSario. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to remain with Lily and her Family. Funeral and Wake Service details are posted on the Bulletin Board.

Congratulations to Thursday Day Captain Jacqueline de Bruin on passing her Paramedic Exam. We wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

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

Fifty (50) Years of Service:

Andrea Golinsky #315

Andrea Golinsky – Fifty (50) Years of Service – Life Member - Joined HCFAS in 1973

In August 1967 my husband, son and I moved from Port Washington to our new home in Huntington Station. I continued commuting to Port Washington while working for Publishers' Clearing House. My son was going to start school in September 1970 and we found our family was going to increase in February so I became a stay at home mom. My husband was working at a distance from home and we were now a 1 car family. I was concerned about what I would do if my children got hurt or suddenly sick. I saw an ad in the local paper that there was to be a standard and advanced first aid class taught at St. John's Episcopal Church in Huntington and signed up to attend. The class was taught by Peggy Lynch (Okulski) and Bill Wicks both members of Huntington Community First Aid Squad.

During class breaks, Bill Wicks would tell of some of his war stories while on duty at the Squad. It was then that I decided to join HCFAS to help my community and to give me a break from household duties. I was accepted at the September Board meeting. I chose to serve on the Sunday 1100-1500 shift. At that time HCFAS was operating out of what is now the Huntington Manor substation on New York Avenue at East 23rd/24th Streets. There was a tin box on the kitchen counter that you would put 10 cents in if you wanted a cup of coffee.

We then moved to our new home on Railroad Street. We weren't a tax district at the time and had to depend on donations to make repairs and maintain the building. Every shift was assigned

a job to be done after the ambulance was checked out. The jobs consisted of washing the windows, mopping the floors, dusting and cleaning the bathrooms. One year my Sunday crew served a pasta meal to members that came to paint the ready room and smoking room.

I originated the Holiday Boutique with first year donations from local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. Thereafter, the boutique was stocked with items made by our members.

Operational Positions served: Crew Leader, Driver, ALS provider.

I served in the following positions at HCFAS: Chief, 1st Deputy Chief, 2nd Deputy Chief, Captain and Director.

Committees that I have served on past and present as a member or Chairperson: Public Information Officer (PIO), Length of Service Awards, New Uniform Committee, Social Committee, Membership Committee, Stand by Committee, Document Retention Committee, Dress Uniform Committee, Uniform Code Revision Committee, New York State Volunteer Ambulance Rescue Association, District 7 Delegate and Treasurer and State Association Board of Director, Legislative Committee covering Federal, State and Town legislation,

TOH Revitalization (Renaissance Downtowns), SC Police 2nd Precinct, Huntington Station Business Improvement District Director, Town of Huntington – Huntington American Dream Homebuyers Assistance Program for First Time Home Buyers, Recruitment Committee Squad, TOH and SC, Alternate District 7 Delegate for Suffolk REMSCO and delegate to the Suffolk County Ambulance Chief's Association.

I have served as the Squad's Public Information Officer communicating with the media with and have communicated notable calls to them, biographies of members as well as arranging press conferences and other events.

I have received many awards over the years including the NYSVARA President's award and being named a Town of Huntington's Annual Women's Networking Day's Women of Distinction.

Before having to go administrative, I originally rode on the Sunday 1100-1500 shift and filled in on a regular basis on the Tuesday and Saturday 1900-2300 shifts.

Over the years I have had many interesting calls. Although I won't go into detail I can say the most infamous one being the "Where's the Beef" call. The 202 operator on that call wrote his report and then sent it to every precinct and to the Police academy. It took a long time to live that one down!

I have made so many friends here at HCFAS and some feel like family. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve Huntington Community First Squad and the community.

Motion made by Andrea Golinsky and seconded by Roger Winter to change the order of business to vote on the Proposed By-Law Change #02-2023 (Life Membership).

Proposed By Law Change #02-2023 – Read by David Mohr – Chairman

Proposal:

Amend the process for Life Membership.

Background/Justification:

This year we have 60 members eligible for Life Membership. One of these eligible candidates has been a member for 40 years. Fifteen candidates have been serving our community for over 25 years. Our neighboring Fire Departments have solved this same problem by awarding Life Member status to all active members after 25 years of service and can only vote if they retain their active status.

Our outdated By-Law requires members to have “given of their time and effort in active service above and beyond the call of duty”. Surely, any member who has given of their time and effort for 25 years has gone above and beyond the call of duty. The By-Laws do not specify what “above and beyond” entails. By amending the By-Laws to bestow Life Membership on all active members who have passed their 25th year of service, then their service, not their popularity, would become the criteria for achievement. The title of the award designates the achievement for members who have been for 25 years already, “Life Members”.

BY-LAW DRAFT AND FINAL COPY WILL BE PLACED HERE

Consensus Vote Count: YES: 44 – NO: 21 ABSTAIN: 1 – Motion Passed

Motion made by Annette Hershkowitz and seconded by Kathryn Donegan to destroy all the ballots.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

President Fiona Witkowski – Report Posted

T-MOBILE CONNECTING HEROES

T-Mobile is a provider of cellular telephone, data and text messaging services and T-Mobile through its Connecting Heroes Plan has made a 10 year commitment to provide every public and non-profit state and local law enforcement, fire and EMS first responder agency across the free unlimited talk, text and smartphone data.

The Connecting Heroes plan includes Wireless Priority Service (“WPS”). WPS provides users access and prioritized processing in all nationwide cellular networks during an emergency or crisis situation when the wireless network is congested and the probability of completing a normal call is reduced. During an MCI, crisis situation or other times of high network

congestion, WPS would provide a prioritized link between dispatch and all members of the HCFAS that choose to participate in the Connecting Heroes plan thereby increasing response to signal 3s and reducing response times.

Providing members with free cellular access comes at no cost to HCFAS and provides members with a valuable service with significant member cost savings. HCFAS members currently utilize their private cellular plans at their own cost to access text pages, Bryx911 and Active 911.

Optionally the Connecting Heroes plan can replace all HCFAS cellular telephone service at no cost to the department, resulting in significant savings to HCFAS.

T-Mobile has approved the Huntington Community First Aid Squad for TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY (270) cellular telephone lines of unlimited talk, text and data with the option for additional lines as deemed necessary.

If you are interested in joining this program, please talk to Rich Stone or put your information in his mailbox.

Acting Secretary's Report – Lehti Laas

Motion to approve the September 11, 2023 General Membership Meeting will be addressed at the October 9, 2023 General Membership Meeting.

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

TREASURER'S EXPENSE REPORT

August 10, 2023 - September 7, 2023

5500	Billing Services	\$ 13,300.69
6000	EMS	\$ 3,437.17
6100	Vehicles	\$ 3,684.34
6200	Building	\$ 3,596.40
6300	Utilities	\$ 5,853.49
6400	Communications	\$ 881.16
6500	Accountant	\$
6600	Insurance	\$ 5,398.53
6700	Office	\$ 276.99
6800	Uniforms	\$ 283.98
6900	Members Inspection	\$
7000	Training	\$ 58.17
7100	Public Relations	\$ 616.00
7300	Subsistence	\$ 409.65
8000	Other	\$ 460.00

8605 Member Services \$ 3,269.76
Total \$ 41,516.33

Chief's Report – William Connolly – Report Posted

Greetings Members,

I hope everyone had a great time at the Picnic. The Special Events Committee did a nice job as usual. These events are well deserved for you and your families for all the hours that you dedicate to HCFAS.

Thank to everyone who came to the East Northport Parade. We had about 30 people in Attendance. The Greenlawn Fire Department Parade and Fair was held on Thursday, August 31st. Thank you to all who participated in the parade and Standbys.

If possible, please listen up for help needed on any shift. If you need a pager please let the Chief Dispatcher know. You will then be entered into the 3 on a 16 raffle when the Dispatcher marks the call Rescue. Everyone who makes back up calls and extra shifts makes a huge difference in covering our calls.

Please remember to close out your PCRs as soon as possible after the call. We have several standbys coming up for some of our neighboring Fire Department's events. If you are available for any of these, please contact our Standby Committee to sign up. We will be calling on some of these same departments to assist us with our Fall Festival in October.

First Deputy Chief – Kathryn Donegan – Report Posted

I wanted to take a moment to remember and commemorate all we lost on this fateful day 22 years ago. Thank you all to what you do each and every day in service to others.

Insane that it's already September. We are in back to school season best of luck to students and teachers entering a new school year.

There are still a number of FD standbys approaching this season and the fall festival in Huntington coming Columbus Day weekend, please sign up if you are available.

There is also a nighttime football game at Huntington High School this coming Thursday that they are requesting an ambulance for. Please let me know if you are available to help out!

We are now in the FINAL month of the third quarter of the year, and everyone needs 48 duty tour hours per quarter. The quarter ends on 09/30. 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. If you are unsure about hours or about if you need to submit any adjustments, reach out to your day captain or myself. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR HOURS REGULARLY AND SUBMIT ADJUSTMENTS IN A TIMELY MANNER.**

To qualify for the end of year gift card, you need 36 full shifts by December 1st. These shifts will only count if they are full 4 or 8 hour tour. Please let me know if you have any questions about this.

Please be sure to check with your captains if you are planning on taking any type of leave so they can arrange the proper paperwork to be completed.

There is still **HIGH NEED** on a multitude of shifts if you are available. Consider doing one overnight a quarter or even setting up an alternating overnight with someone else! We have the same crews coming in consistently and while we appreciate them, it is not sustainable long term to expect 3-4 overnights out of them each week. We had a motion passed to allot overnight members a food budget to purchase a meal or snacks while completing a 2300 shift if you are available.

If you need **laminated copies of your license or any** certifications, please leave a copy of them in my mailbox with a note and I will get them back to you ASAP. If you are interested in becoming a driver OR a driver trainer, please let me know. If you are interested in becoming a driver, please leave a copy of your license in my mailbox.

If you have any concerns, please reach out to your captain or appropriate chief so we can assist you in a timely manner. We are always happy to answer questions and address concerns, but we must be made aware of them first. It's important to follow the communication chain of command so issues get handled accordingly and in a timely manner.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our organization, our members and our community. Stay safe, especially on the roads while students are going back to school and be kind to one another.

Second Deputy Chief – Dale Bartolomeo – Absent - Report Posted and Given by First Deputy Chief Kathryn Donegan

ESO/PCRs – PCRs should be completed no later than one day. If the patient dies, it **MUST** be completed within 4 hours of completion of the call.

- When PCRs are not completed in a timely fashion, vital information can be left out, forgotten and put our agency at risk when the state comes to audit us. PCRs should ideally be submitted/completed before leaving the hospital. I understand this is not always possible; however, it is unacceptable that some members do not close their PCRs for days or even weeks.
- PCRs need to be written professionally and with enough information to allow the hospital to understand what is going on with the patient.

- The QA/QI committee reviews PCRs and will continue to reach out to those who consistently fail to include pertinent information.
- Insurance is REQUIRED. DO NOT simply select UTO just because you do not feel like obtaining insurance information. If you cannot obtain insurance information please state as to why it could not be obtained at the end of the narrative.

- **EPCR/ESO** - Questions or Issues? Please email epcr@hcfas.org

- **Review Trainings** – This month's topic is on the PAB Documentation and Billing presentation that we had on August 30th.

Please remember to stay up to date on Review Trainings.

Thank you to Fiona and Jake for setting up the entire presentation with PAB

Thank you to everyone who came down in person to attend. It was very informative.

- **EMT/CPR Cards** - Per Article 1 SECTION 3 of the By laws

a) These By-Laws follow the convention that "he" means "he or she".

b) **"Properly certified"** per Article I, section 3b of the By-Laws" means:

1. For members accepted **Prior to January 1, 2016**, possessing a valid an American Heartsaver First Aid Online certification and a BLS CPR Card, or a New York State Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) or higher certification.

2. For members accepted **After January 1, 2016**, possessing a valid BLS CPR card until receiving their New York State Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) or higher certification in accordance with Article III, Section 2.

So, If you are a member and joined prior to January 1st, 2016 you must have and maintain either an EMT certification **OR** Both a AHA CPR Card and AHA First Aid Card. If you joined after January 1st 2016 you must maintain a EMT Certification.

Article 3 Section 2 of the By laws

All members, except Administrative members or members designated as permanent dispatchers, accepted after January 1, 2016 must be enrolled into a New York State Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) class within eighteen (18) months of their date of acceptance, and must have obtained a New York State Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) certification within three (3) years of their date of acceptance. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the loss of membership. Administrative personnel and members designated as permanent dispatchers shall pass through all steps in the

membership application process except, they will be exempt from the New York State Emergency Medical Technician (Basic) certification requirement.

- **NEW EMTS** – Please remember to submit a copy of your EMT card to me so we can keep it in your member file and update SCM and ESO.
 - **Please also remember that before you start ACLing you must complete the BLS Credentialing and submit the completion certificate to me.**
 - **Keep an eye out for emails about upcoming BLS 12 Lead and CPAP classes.**

Third Deputy Chief – Keith Rubenstein – Absent - Report Posted and Given by Chief William Connolly

A few ambulances went out of service today:

Unit #16 will be out of service and is waiting for Ace.

Unit #17 is at Proliner.

Unit #19 is out of service and is waiting for parts.

All other vehicles are in service.

We are working with Target Solutions to remedy the log on problem due to us using them as a prior vendor. They are currently working on a solution.

Chief Dispatcher – Melissa Anastos – Absent – No Report

Company 1 - Sunday Day Captain James Kelly – No Report

Company 2 - Monday Day Captain Lily Poplawski – No Report

Company 3 – Tuesday Day Captain Brandon Eybergen – No Report

Company 4 - Wednesday Day Captain Dominic Heavey – No Report

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

Company 6 - Friday Day Captain John Stevens – No Report

Company 7 - Saturday Day Captain Matthew Philip – Report Posted

Thank you to Ex-Chief David Kaufman, John Stevens, Jackie de Bruin, Jake Levinsky, Natalie Amaya, Dany Portillo, Seth Fischer, Eric Kramer, Eric Bantz, Lauren Grosner, Sofia Mercuri, Evelyn and Kemberlin Hernandez for helping out on the 2300 Shifts this Month. Thank you to all the members who came in on a Saturday to keep us 24 free this year.

Let us welcome Jessica Mason #1591 with open arms. She is back from an extended ELOA. Jessica is a Paramedic and is eager to get on the road with HCFAS.

Saturdays are in need of a permanent Crew Leader on the 0700 and 1500 Shifts. The Overnight is in need of one Driver.

Finally, we had NO 24s on Saturdays this month.

Delegate & Committee Reports:

LOSAP 2022 Benefit Statements - Bob Franz

The December 31, 2022 LOSAP benefit statements were distributed to all participants in your member mail folder or by the USPS. Upon receipt, please review this statement carefully and if any of the information is incorrect, please put a detail note with any corrections in Director Bob Franz's mailbox. If you require a change of beneficiary, please use HCFAS Form # 430 which can be found on the form rack outside the dispatch office or on the Squad website or server. Please make sure your legal name and address is correct.

LOSAP 2023 Points – Bob Franz

The 2023 LOSAP Point listing posted on the bulletin board is being updated periodically. It is requested that each member review their points and report in writing any discrepancies to the LOSAP point committee. All review trainings must be completed & submitted by December 31, 2023 to be eligible for LOSAP points for 2023. Review Trainings should be completed on a monthly basis, please do not do more than a maximum of two review trainings in a single day. **The LOSAP point committee puts incomplete submitted LOSAP forms for your correction in a basket on the counter on top of the mail folders. Please check this basket and make any required corrections.**

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

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

Designation of Beneficiary – Bob Franz

Reminder to review and update your beneficiary(s) especially if you went through any life changes, such as marriages, divorce, death or birth of loved ones. Members wishing to check their designated beneficiary(s) on their VFIS Group Term Life Insurance or on their VFIS Accident & Sickness Policy please drop a note in Director Bob Franz's mail box or the insurance committee mail box or email Bob Franz (robo4200@hotmail.com). Eligible members under the squad's group term life insurance program are generally covered for \$50,000 (lower amounts if over 69 years of age). All active members are covered under the VFIS Accident & Sickness policy while on duty; the death benefit is \$250,000.

Your beneficiary(s) under the LOSAP program was indicated on your 2022 LOSAP benefit statement which was distributed to you in August.

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

Explorer Post 215 – Susanna Otto & Brian Canty – The Explorer Post will be hosting A Fundraiser Car Wash on September 24, 2023.

Fund Drive Committee – Mary Brenner/Joan Florio - As of 9/9/23 the Fund Drive had taken in donations totaling \$68,155.00.

Pulse Check 2023 – Andrea Golinsky – There will not be an educational conference this year but scholarships and special awards will be presented at this annual meeting which will be held in Pomona, New York on September 30, 2023.

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

Stand-By Committee – Kenney Cadet – There are many Standbys coming up in the next few weeks. We still need volunteers, there is an issue with not enough members signing up for Standbys. There is a Football Game Standby coming up and we need crews. There will be a variety of Standbys on 9/14, 9/29 and 10/21. I still need a Crew for Saturday, September 30th for the Fall Fair and I also need a Crew for this Thursday. A sign up sheet is located in the ready room. Please contact Kenney if you are available to do a Standby. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Memorial for Captain Ali Russo

HCFAS Members,

We will be celebrating the life of Captain Russo on September 29th at Crab Meadow Pavilion starting at 3:00 PM. This is NOT at the restaurant, La Casa, that is on site but its own space a bit further down.

Per the family's request, please do not spread this celebration beyond the agency. They wish this to be an intimate event away from the chaos on the year anniversary of her unfortunate passing.

Dress warmly or in layers since we will be on the beach. Bathrooms will be open as well if there is any concern. Parking will be ample as well.

If there are further questions, please be sure to reach out to Emily Schaffert or Tiffany White.

Please RSVP using the link below by September 15th.

<https://www.punchbowl.com/parties/5bd3524f4bbcf3b9f4f0>

Thank you.

First Deputy Chief Donegan

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476 **In Closing:**

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478 Has everyone fingered in?

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

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481 **Social and Kitchen Committees:** A Special thanks to Lisa Mohr, Bob Biersack, Christy Stiles

482 Kevin McCann and Claire Tesoriero

New Business:

Kenney Cadet – A Full Crew is still needed for a Standby for this Thursday. Please contact Kenney if you are available.

Lehti Laas – Thanks to Michelle Franco and Noah Ramos for their hard work on the Retention and Recruitment Committee. Any and all ideas are welcome from Members. Volunteers are still needed for this Committee. If you are interested, please contact Michelle or Noah for details.

In addition, a list of ideas that was made to the Board of Directors in February 2023 to increase staffing on the overnight was presented to the membership.

Richard Stone – If you are interested in obtaining a T-Mobile Account please contact Rich for further details.

Mary Winter – Spoke on behalf of her daughter, Casey Stone regarding a current and updated HCFAS member status list.

Old Business: None

Various Raffles:

\$25 Gift Card to Cheesecake Factory – Heidi Magerle

\$25 Gas Card Exxon Mobil – Suzanne Philip

\$25 Gift Card to Home Depot – Kyoko Saito

\$25 Gift Card to Target – Joanne Vogel

Bottle of Red Wine – Grant Werner

Bottle of White Wine – Jasjeet Kaur

Members in Attendance: Eligible Members 66, Probationary Members 9, Total: 75

Motion made by Andrea Golinsky and seconded by Kathryn Donegan to adjourn the General Membership meeting at 2107 hours.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

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532 Respectfully Submitted,

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534 *Christine A. Tedone*

535 Recording Secretary

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537 *Ryane Como*

538 Secretary

539 Draft posted: November 2023

540 Draft Approved: November 2023