

ALBANY COUNTY REPORT

DECEMBER 2023

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ELSMERE FIRE COMPANY TO HOST DECEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING

The Elsmere Fire Company will host the next meeting of the Association on December 13 starting at 7:30 PM. President Robert White urges all members to try to attend and take an active part in the Association. The meeting will be held at the Elsmere Fire Station located at 15 West Poplar Drive in Elsmere

CHIEF STEVE AYERS HONORED WITH FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chief Steve Ayers of the New Salem Fire Dept was the recipient of this year's Walter W. Eck Jr. Firefighter of the year award at the Annual Albany County Volunteer Firefighters Association Dinner held in Altamont.

SLINGERLANDS FIRE DEPT WINS BEST OVERALL AT THIS YEAR'S MUSTER

The Slingerlands Fire Dept won the Walter W. Eck Sr Memorial Traveling Trophy at this year's ACVFA Muster hosted by the Slingerlands Fire Dept on September 16th. Slingerlands also won trophies for best appearing Men's Color Guard and Best appearing Pumper. Elsmere won for the Best appearing Antique. Westmere won the award for best appearing Ladder New Salem won for the best appearing Tanker and Onesquethaw won the award for best appearing Utility Vehicle. Also taking part was the Guilderland Center Fire Dept. The winners received their trophies at the Annual Dinner and meeting at Altamont. The Association wishes to Thank all that took part and Slingerlands for hosting the Muster.

BY-LAW CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON AT DECEMBER MEETING

Due to the name of the Association being changed from Fireman's to Firefighters Association the following Articles and sections of the By-Laws need to be changed Article 1, Section 1, Article 1 Section 2 Lines 1,3,4, and 5 Article 2 Lines 1 and 4, Article 3 Section 11A, Article 7, Section 2A, 2B and 2C and Article 16 Section 3. All the changes involved are to change the word Fireman to FireFighter. These were read at the Sept meeting and will be voted on at the December meeting

SEASONS GREETINGS

THE OFFICERS OF THE ALBANY COUNTY VFA AND LADIES AUXILIARY WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, ALL FIREFIGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

HOLIDAY CARDS FOR HOME MEMBERS

Now that the Holiday Season is upon us why not send a Holiday Card to our Volunteers at the FASNY Firemen's Home and let them know that we are thinking of them. I'm sure They will appreciate it. There are Five members from Albany County who are Home members; Norma June, George Fink, Jason Wheatly and Mr. & Mrs. Gerald DeLuca. The Address is

Name of Resident
C/O FASNY Firemen's Home
125 Harry Howard Ave.
Hudson NY 12534

4TH BATTALION VACANCY

The Association is looking for someone to fill the 4th Battalion Director's position. Anyone from Boght Community, Maplewood, Menands, Schuyler Heights, S.W. Pitts or Verdoe Fire Companies are eligible for this position. If interested please contact any of the Association Officers listed on Page 5 or Secretary John Webb.

BURN FUND DONATIONS

Thank you to the following for giving a Memorial Donation to the Burn Fund in memory of Voorheesville Fire Dept member Paul M. Cantlin: Altamont Physical Therapy, Voorheesville FD Ladies Auxiliary, Gordon Pinney, Jean C. Law, Dawn and Mike Altschuler, John T. Biscone Esq., Scherer Family, Semenick Family, Dawna A. Leon and Leo, Debbie, Kris & Jess Bourassa.

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NOTES FROM THE DINNER MEETING

The September meeting of the Association was held on September 20 at the Altamont Fire Station. Robert White of the Host Company welcome everyone to Altamont, pointed out the Fire Exits and the location of the rest rooms and hoped that all enjoy the Dinner. Chaplain Hough gave the opening prayer and a BBQ Chicken and Ribs Dinner was served to the 120 members and guests present. After Dinner The meeting was called to order at 8 PM by President Robert White. The Pledge of Allegiance. President Robert White introduced the guests in Attendance. Darlene Wilson, President of the Albany County Ladies Auxiliary, Marilyn Schrader, President of the Board of Trustees of the FASNY Firefighter's Home, Michael Karashy, President of Hudson Valley VFA, Robert Schrader, 1st VP of Hudson Valley, Yale Frank and Jeri Mehan, Directors of Hudson Valley, Dave Jordan President of Hudson Mohawk, Bill Mehan, Treasurer and Vickie Dican Director of Hudson Mohawk, Greene County VFA President Antonio Fuentes, Greene County 1st VP Ryan Schrader, 2nd VP Jason Haines, Charles Feldmann President and Tom With Board Chairman of the Albany County Fire Police Association, Joe Fahd, Deputy Albany County Fire Coordinator, Richard Berger, President Albany County Rural Chiefs Association and Tom With, Chief Chaplain of the NYS Chaplains Association. All gave short talks on their Associations and introduced other Officers. Auxiliary President Darlene Wilson presented the Association a check for \$250.00 towards the expenses of the Newsletter. The Memorial Service was conducted by Chaplain Jonathan Hough, assisted by Tom With. The Firefighter of the year award was presented to Chief Steve Ayers of the New Salem Fire Dept (See page 1). Motion was made and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the August Directors Meeting. Communications were read and three bills were approved for payment. Tom With of the Burn Fund gave an update on the Burn Fund and Fred Pettingell gave a report as Treasurer of the Burn Fund. Trophies were presented to the muster/ Inspection Day winners (see page one). Other committees presenting reports were Newsletter, Dinner, ByLaws (See page 1) and Ways and means. One new member was approved for membership. Marylyn Schrader gave a detailed report on the Firefighters Home and thanked everyone for all that they do for the Firefighters Home.

(continued bottom of next column)

CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL CORNER

Winter is fast approaching and The Holiday Season is upon us. I hope everyone has a Good Thanksgiving and Great Christmas and a Happy New Year. We have had a Few Members that have passed away. We need you to keep them in your prayers. If you know of any member of a Fire Company or Department that has passed away please call me on my cell at 518-894-0374 or my home phone at 518-756-7074. The names of our Deceased Members:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Daniel F Bleichert | West Albany |
| James P O'Hare | Fuller Road & Charter |
| Financial Secretary of the ACVFA | |
| Steven G Alix | Boght Community |
| Paul M. Cantlin | Voorheesville |
| Arthur J LaBelle | Selkirk # 2 |
| Patrick C Smith | West Albany |
| Orin M Sussman | Midway |

TAB COLLECTIONS

If you have been keeping those pull tabs please bring them to the next meeting when we meet again and if I am not there the Secretary will make sure I get them. Thanks to all who brought their Tabs to the dinner meeting. The Shriners and I thank you for all of your support.

CORRECTION

In the last Issue, Joseph Cea, who received one of the FASNY Scholarships is from the Elsmere Fire Company. This fact was omitted from the article.

(Continued from previous column)

Attending the meeting were 11 Officers, 20 Companies were represented, 108 Association members and 12 guests. Tony Carrow of Westmere won the 50-50 and donated his winnings back to the Association. Fuller Road Fire Dept won the Special Drawing and also donated their winnings back to the Association.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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AUXILIARY NEWS

As we enter the Holiday Season, the Officers would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The Fall leaves have fallen and now we wait for the white covering of the ground. We would like to have everyone prepare for the colder months by staying healthy and dressing properly. Of course be careful when driving or walking.

We would like to welcome three new members: Christine Oreshan, Penny Oreshan and Melissa Bagley. It is awesome that these Ladies from Boght have joined us and look forward to their input at our meetings. New members mean new ideas.

With the Firefighters Home now opened, we have scheduled Christmas in August on the 17th of August, 2024 from 1 to 3. Mark your calendars and join in the fun the Home Members will have when Santa arrives.

Remember our \$2500 Scholarship is funded by selling of our monthly daily drawing lottery tickets. These tickets make great gifts for Christmas, Easter, Birthday, etc. why not take a chance, you may be a winner.

There have been several members who showed interest in purchasing an ACVFA-LA shirt. If you would like a shirt, please let us know and we will add your name to the list.

We are still looking for a host for our March 25, 2024 meeting. Two Auxiliaries had offered, however their rooms are not available for that date. Light refreshments are served at 6:30 with the meeting starting at 7. Please note the start of the meeting is 7 PM in place of 7:30 PM.

AUXILIARY FUND RAISER

Looking for a Christmas present, why not purchase a daily lottery raffle ticket from the Auxiliary. These raffle tickets are great to insert in a Christmas card to your family and friends. They are only \$5 for a month of chances to win. The proceeds help us to give a worthy student in Albany County a \$2500 scholarship. Please contact Karen McDonald at 518-477-4351 or any member of the Auxiliary for tickets.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Just a reminder the 2024 Albany County Scholarship info will be available in January 2024. For info after January 1 you can contact me at dburega13@gmail.com. Thank you

COEYMAN'S FIRE COMPANY LADIES AUXILIARY HOLIDAY FAIR DECEMBER 2

The Coeymans Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will be having their Annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 3rd at the Coeymans Fire Station located at 67 Church Street in Coeymans. The Fair will run from 9 AM to 3 PM with more 40 crafters and suppliers available. Breakfast and Lunch will be available and there will be raffles taking place. Come to the Fair and get that special Holiday Gift.

WESTMERE LADIES AUXILIARY BROOKS BBQ

The Westmere Fire Dept Ladies Auxiliary will be having a Chicken BBQ Fundraiser by Brooks House of BBQ on January 7, 2024. It will be held at the Westmere Fire Station, 1741 Western Ave in Westmere. The Auxiliary will be offering a Chicken Dinner for \$15 or just a ½ Chicken for \$10. Dinners will include a Baked Potato and Cole slaw. Chicken and dinners will be served as **take out only** from 12 PM to 5 PM or until sold out.

SELKIRK # 1 LADIES FISH FRY DINNERS

Selkirk FDs Company # 1 Ladies Auxiliary will again be serving **TAKE OUT ONLY** Fish Fry Dinners during Lent. Dinners will be served starting on Friday Feb 16 and continuing on March 1st, 15th and the 29th. The Dinners will be available from 4:30 PM to 7 PM at the Selkirk # 1 Fire Station at 126 Maple Ave in Selkirk. Dinners include a Fish Fry, French Fries, Cole Slaw and a dessert for \$13. A Chicken Nugget Dinner is also available for \$10. Also Available is Clam Chowder or Mac N Cheese for \$5. The Auxiliary will also have Raffle Tickets available for purchase For more Info EMAIL: selkirk ladies1@yahoo.com

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BURT FREDERICK 50 YEAR CELEBRATION

Burt Frederick was honored on October 15th by the Guilderland Center Fire Dept. for his 50 years of Service with a celebration at the Guilderland Center Fire Station. Burt received certificates from FASNY, Hudson Valley, Hudson Mohawk and Albany County VFA. Guilderland Center presented Burt with A White Chief's Helmet. Pictured below is ACVFA President Burt Frederick presenting Burt with his 50 Year certificate from ACVFA.



S.W. PITTS HONORS 50 YEAR MEMBER

The S.W. Pitts Hose Company held their annual Old Timers night on Oct 21. During the evening they honored Richard Barlette for his 50 years of service to the S.W. Pitts Hose Company. Pictured below is ACVFA President Robert White presenting Richard Barlette with his 50 years of Service Award from the ACVFA



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT VOORHEESVILLE

The Voorheesville Fire Dept will hold their Annual Hungry Man's Breakfast with Santa on Sunday December 3rd from 7 AM to Noon. All you can eat Breakfast includes Eggs cooked to order, toast, pancakes, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, beverage and Santa for the Kids. Breakfast is \$10 for 12 and older. \$5 for ages 6 to 11 and free for those 5 and under. Will be held at the Voorheesville Fire Station at 12 Altamont Road in Voorheesville.

NEW MEMBER

The ACVFA welcomes Nicole McKasty Stagg of the Voorheesville Fire Department as our newest member.

MEETING DATES FOR 2024

Locations are needed for the Association meetings for 2024. The dates are March 13, May 8(Annual Meeting), August 14 (Directors Meeting) and Dec 11, 2024. Voorheesville will be hosting the Sept. Dinner Meeting. For more info on hosting a meeting contact John Webb by E Mail at jlwsec@gmail.com or by cell at 518-256-7359

MESSAGE FROM THE 2nd VP MATT WILCENSKI

Thank you again for electing me Second Vice President. I will do my best as the ACVFA Second Vice President and I hope to get more new members for the Association. Thank You

WEST ALBANY 50 YEAR MEMBERS

ACVFA President Robert White presented 5 members of the West Albany Fire Dept with 50 Years of Service awards from the Association. Honored were Greg Jensen, Marty DePoalo, Ron Otty, John Keoppel and Tom Carmody

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FIRE POLICE NEWS

ANNUAL THOMAS F. WITH FIRE POLICE TRAINING & EDUCATION SEMINAR

The Deerfield Fire Dept. at 5476 Trenton Road, Utica NY (1.2 miles north of NYS Thruway Exit 31 Utica and only 90 minutes from Albany County.) will be the host to the VFPASNY "Annual Thomas F. With Fire Police Training & Education Seminar" on March 23rd, 2024.

Seminar Schedule of Topics to be presented:

7:30 am -Breakfast – Eggs, bacon, toast, juice etc.

8:45 am – Opening remarks and Introduction of VFPASNY Officers

9:00 am – Jeff Bailes, National Safety Council – Safety for Fire Police at the Scene, during Traffic controls and the need for more Awareness”

10:15 – 11:15 – “Table Top Exercise Anyone?”, A Refreshner with Tom With and a Rep from NYSDOT a chance to conduct, discuss and display traffic controls and issues.

11:15 – 12:15 – “Arson Awareness” and how it pertains to Fire Police, conducted by the OFPC Arson Bureau

12:15 – 1:00 – LUNCH

1:00 – 2:00 – Ron Ryan, Onondaga County Emergency Services, will discuss the “Operations of Fire Police at an Emergency Scene, Laws and how they pertain to operations” Coordination between Fire & Fire Police.

2:00 – 3:00 – Richard Flanagan, FEMA, NYS Preparedness. Program on the operations pertaining to Mass Casualty Incidents and Joint Operations with each Organization”

3:00 – Questions and Answers and Presentation of Certificates

This Seminar presented by the Volunteer Fire Police Assn of the State of New York.

FASNY WINTER GAMES

The FASNY Winter Games will be held on Feb 2 – 4 at the Greek Peak Resort in Cortland NY. For more info or to register go to fasny.com/events/winter-games.

ACVFA CURRENT OFFICERS

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| President | Robert White | 772-9807 |
| 1 st Vice President | Tom Cascone | 441-5162 |
| 2 nd Vice President | Matt Wilcenski | 221-3437 |
| Recording Secretary | John Webb | 256-7359 |
| Treasurer | Fred Pettingell | 466-6357 |
| Financial Secretary | Clayton Ash | 861-7445 |
| Chaplain | Jonathan Hough | 894-0374 |
| Sargent-at-Arms | Don Champion | 872-1676 |
| Board Chairman | Burt Frederick | 861-6635 |

BATTALION DIRECTORS

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------|
| First Battalion | Mike Taylor | 858-5342 |
| Second Battalion | Frank Papa | 765-3764 |
| Third Battalion | Charles Feldmann | 859-6883 |
| Fourth Battalion | VACANT | |
| Fifth Battalion | Henry Smith | 859-5088 |
| Sixth Battalion | Marc Platt | 461-5141 |

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ALBANY COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Member Company/Department | \$ 15.00 |
| Individual Member | \$ 10.00 |
| Associate Company/Department | \$ 15.00 |
| Associate Individual Member | \$ 10.00 |

Name_____

Address_____

City/Town_____

State & Zip_____

Fire Dept/Company_____

Home/Cell Phone_____

E MAIL_____

Signature_____

Date Elected as Member_____

Please return Application and the correct fee to Clayton Ash, ACVFA Financial Secretary, 1138 Meadowdale Road, Altamont NY 12009
Thank you for Joining

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

If you would like to publicize your upcoming event or news about your Company or Auxiliary that you would like to share please send the information to the Editor John Webb. Best way is by E mail at jlwsec@gmail.com By phone at 518-756-3281 or by mail: John Webb, 30 Van Buren Ave, Ravana NY 12143. The deadline for the next Issue is February 15, 2024 This issue can include information on events happening anytime after March 1.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 2 – Coeymans Fire Co Auxiliary Annual Holiday Fair. Info on page 3

Dec 3 – Voorheesville Fire Dept Breakfast with Santa. Info on page 5

Dec 13 – ACVFA Quarterly Meeting at Delmar. Starts at 7:30 PM.

Jan 7 – Westmere Ladies Brooks BBQ Fundraiser info on Page 3

Jan 27 – Hudson Valley Past Presidents Dinner at Best Western Hotel, Kingston NY

Jan 27 – FASNY EMS Seminar. Selden NY

Feb 2-4 – FASNY Winter Games. Info page 5

Feb 16 – Sekirk # 1 Ladies Fish Fry Info page 3

March 13 - ACVFA Quarterly meeting scheduled. Need a host

March 25 – Ladies Auxiliary meeting need a host
Please remember that any event listed is subject to change. Check with the sponsoring organization to make sure the event is still scheduled.

ADVERTISING

The ACVFA is always taking Ads for the Newsletter to help with expenses. We wish to thank the following for their support this past year; river Valley Radio, Josephine "Josie" Bruno and Diane Balling, Past President of LAFASNY. The size of the ads are Business card size and cost \$25 per Issue or \$75 for Four Issues. No ads will be allowed that could cause any embarrassment to the Association or that promotes any type of illegal activity. For more information contact the editor John Webb at 518-756-3281 or by E mail at jlwsec@gmail.com

Please support our Advertisers. The Association greatly appreciates their continued support. Their support helps make this newsletter possible.



Diana Balling
LAFASNY Jr. Past President

1041 Blue Mountain Road
Saugerties NY 12477

dlb@megacity.org / 845-389-7115



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HomeServices



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Jbruno.bhhsblake.com

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated 

SERVING THE AREA AS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER AND EMT FOR OVER 34 YEARS

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

We now have 196 that receive the newsletter by E mail. To receive the newsletter by E mail send an E Mail to the editor requesting the newsletter be sent that way. Send the E mail to jlwsec@gmail.com