

MARCH 2024

ALBANY COUNTY VFA MEETING TO BE HELD ON MARCH 13 AT RAVENA

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ACVFA WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 13, 2024 AT THE RAVENA FIRE STATION. THE MEETING WILL START AT 7:30. THE OFFICERS URGE ALL MEMBERS TO TRY TO ATTEND THIS MEETING. THE RAVENA FIRE STATION IS LOCATED AT 116 MAIN STREET IN RAVENA.

EAST BERNE TO HOST ANNUAL MEETING

The East Berne Fire Company will host the May 8 Annual Meeting of the ACVFA. The meeting will be held in their Brand New Fire Station located at 792 Helderberg Trail (Route 443) in East Berne. Meeting starts at 7:30 with refreshments before the meeting. Annual Reports and Election of Officers will take place.

VOORHEESVILLE TO HOST ANNUAL DINNER

The VOORHEESVILLE FIRE DEPT will Host the Annual Dinner and Quarterly meeting to be held on September 18, 2024. Both the dinner and meeting will be held at the Voorheesville Station. More information will be available during the coming months

NOMINATIONS DUE AT MARCH MEETING

The March meeting will include nomination of Officers that will be voted on at the May Annual meeting. THE President's positions are in the middle of their two year term. Up for reelection are the Third and Fourth Battalion Directors positions. These are three year terms and currently held by Chuck Feldmann and the Fourth is vacant. The Other positions of Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Chaplain and Sgt-at Arms are also up for reelection. These are one year terms. If you are interested in being a candidate for any position in the Association please contact Chairman Mike Taylor at 518-858-5342, Association President Robert White at 518-772-9807 or Secretary John Webb at 518-256-7359.

ELSMERE AUXILIARY TO HOST MARCH 25 ACVFA LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING

THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE ALBANY COUNTY VFA WILL BE MEETING AT THE ELSMERE FIRE STATION ON MONDAY MARCH 25. REFRESHMENTS AT 6:30 PM MEETING AT 7:00 PM. THE STATION IS LOCATED AT 15 WEST POPLAR DRIVE IN ELSMERE. PRESIDENT DARLENE WILSON URGES ALL MEMBERS TO TRY TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.

REMINDER TO ALL

The Ladies Auxiliary will be accepting applications for the Scholarship they offer each year. Details on applying are on Page 3 of the Newsletter. Deadline is April 1

VOORHEESVILLE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Voorheesville Fire Dept is looking to see if Albany County Companies/Departments are interested in taking part in a softball tournament this year to benefit the Albany Burn Fund. If there is enough interest they will go ahead and start planning for the tournament. A letter is enclosed with the newsletter that was mailed to each member Organization and is also at the end of the emailed newsletters. Please let them know if interested. Contact info is in the Letter.

NEWSLETTER TO BE EMAILED ONLY

Starting with this issue the Newsletter will only be mailed to the Companies/Departments of the Association as well as the Auxiliaries. All individual members will only receive an email copy of the Newsletter. This was done as a cost saving measure due to the increase in printing and mailing costs. Letters were sent out with the dues notices explaining why the Association did this and asking for your email address. Response to this has been good and the Association Thanks the members who have responded to our request. If you need to give us your email or to update it please email the Secretary at jlwsec@gmail.com.

MARCH 2024

NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting of the Association was held on December 13 at the Elsmere Fire Station. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Robert White. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and Chaplain Jonathan Hough gave the opening Prayer. Mike Taylor welcomed everyone to Elsmere and pointed out the Fire exits. Communications were read and one bill was approved for payment. Committee reports were received from Newsletter, Muster, Burn Fund, Ways and Means, By-Laws and Annual Dinner.

In Old Business the By-law changes that were read at the September meeting were voted on and approved. In New Business the Association voted to sponsor a Trophy at the Hudson Valley Parade in Saugerties. Editor John Webb brought up about the cost of printing the newsletter. The cost for 300 copies went from \$144.00 to around \$315.00. It was decided to send a letter with the dues notices asking the individual members for an email address to send the newsletter to. Only the companies, Departments and the Auxiliaries will be mailed copies. This will start with the March 2024 issue of the Newsletter. The Association voted to donate \$230 to the Burn Fund per the wishes of Tony Carrow who won that amount at the Dinner 50-50 and donated back to the Association. Voorheesville Fire Dept. is looking into sponsoring a softball Tournament in 2024 to benefit the burn fund. Details to be announced in the Spring. Darlene Wilson, ladies Auxiliary President asked everyone to remind their Organizations of the Scholarship that the Auxiliary gives out each year. (Info on page 3) They hope to get more applications this year. Fred Pettingell presented the Treasurers report and Clayton Ash presented the Financial Secretary's report. There were 15 Officers and members present and 12 companies represented at the meeting.

ACVFA ON FACEBOOK

The Association has a Facebook page. To view it go to Facebook and type in ALBANY COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMENS ASSOCIATION.

CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL CORNER

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season. Winter is almost over. We have a Few Members that have passed away since our last get together. Keep them and their Families in our Prayers. They will be missed.

David W Bayly	Voorheesville
Jody Burrows	Coeymans Hollow
Kathie Woods Campion	Shaker Rd-Loudonville
Past ACVFA Financial Secretary	
Philip C. Livingston	S.W. Pitts
William M. Mehan	Stillwater
Vincent D Morrell	West Albany
Thomas P Phelan	S.W. Pitts
Richard P Rogozinski	Menands & Schuyler Heights
Bryant Stevens	Colonie & OFPC
Douglas P Williams	Verdoy
David A Messier	Shaker Rd-Loudonville

Please Remember the sick and wish them well.

TAB COLLECTIONS

We still need those pull tabs. If your Company or department has some please bring them to the next meeting and if I am not there the Secretary will make sure I get them. The Shriners and I thank you for all of your support.

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Many of our member Companies and Departments each year honor one of their members as their Firefighter of the year. Why not submit that person for the Associations Walter W. Eck Jr. Firefighter of the Year Award. To do so, write up a description of the event or reason for the nomination on a company letterhead. Have the Chief Officer or President sign it and send it to the Association Secretary, John Webb, 30 Van Buren Ave, Ravena NY 12143. The deadline is August 1 but don't wait do it today.

MARCH 2024

LADIES AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP NEWS DEADLINE APRIL 1

The Ladies Auxiliary of the ACVFA is pleased to announce they will once again present a one time only Scholarship award of \$2500. The applicant must be applying to further their education at a 2 year or a 4 year college. The applicant must live in Albany County and the Applicant or a member of the Applicant's immediate Family must be associated with a Fire Company/Department or Auxiliary that is a member in Good Standing with the Albany County Volunteer Firemen's Association or Ladies Auxiliary of the same. If you are interested in applying please contact Diane Burega at either 518-858-9084 or by email at dburega13@gmail.com for an application. Deadline is April 1, 2024.

SELKIRK # 1 LADIES FISH FRY DINNERS

Selkirk Company # 1 Ladies Auxiliary will have Fish Fry Dinners starting on Friday Feb 16th and continuing on Friday March 1st, 15th and the 29th. The Dinners will be available either to take out or sit down and enjoy at the Fire Station and will be available from 4:30 to 7 PM at the Selkirk # 1 Fire Station at 126 Maple Ave in Selkirk. Dinners include a choice of either Fish or Chicken Nuggets, French Fries, Cole slaw and a Dessert. Fish Fry Dinners are \$13.00 and Chicken Nugget Dinners are \$10.00. Side Orders of New England Clam Chowder or Mac and Cheese are available for \$5.00. The Ladies will also be conducting raffles at each dinner. Make sure to Enter to win some awesome raffle prizes

BROOKS BBQ AT VOORHEESVILLE

The Voorheesville Fire Dept. will be hosting a Brooks BBQ Chicken Dinner at their Station on Thursday March 28 from 3:30 to 6:30 PM or until sold out. Cost of a Dinner is \$15.00. This will be a drive thru event only. The Voorheesville Fire Station is located on Altamont Road in Voorheesville.

ACVFA LADIES MEETING AT ELSMERE

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Elsmere Fire Company "A" will host the ACVFA Ladies Auxiliary meeting on Monday, March 25 2024 at the Elsmere Fire House located at 15 West Poplar Drive in Elsmere. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 and the Meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. Let's have another great showing at this meeting. We are still looking for a host for our June 24th meeting.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT WILSON

Spring is right around the corner. Our next meeting as noted above will be held at the Elsmere Fire Company located at 15 West Poplar Drive, Delmar NY 12054. Reminder our meetings start at 7 PM with snacks at 6:30 PM. WE are looking for a host for our June 24th meeting. Please check your schedule now to see if you meeting room may be available. Ladies, we are still accepting applications for our scholarship program. Wishing every one a Happy Easter and hope to see everyone at our March 25th meeting.

SELKIRK FIRE CO #2 FISH FRY DINNER

Selkirk Fire Co # 2 located at 301 Glenmont Road in Glenmont will also be doing Fish Fry Dinners on the Fridays that Selkirk # 1 Ladies are not. The dates are March 8th and 22nd and April 5. They will Have Fish Dinners which include Fresh Fish, Fries and Cole Slaw, Chicken Nuggets Dinner with French Fries. Clam Chowder, Fried Dough and Soda or water are also available for purchase. Dinners can be ordered by calling 518-436-8203 or 518-436-1601 from 4 pm until sold out. Dinners can also be ordered directly at the fair kitchen windows at the rear of the Fire House in Glenmont

MARCH 2024

ALBANY COUNTY FIRE POLICE NEWS

The Albany County Volunteer Fire Police Association will be having their next membership meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at the Woodman's Hall in Westerlo. Election of Officers will be held at this meeting. Anyone wishing to run for an Officer's position can send a "Letter of intent" to acfirepolice@gmail.com before March 15th. If you have any questions on the various Offices in the Association please contact President Charles Feldmann or Board Chair Tom With. Woodman's Hall is located at 980 County Rte 401 in Westerlo.

HUDSON VALLEY FIRE POLICE SEMINAR

The Hudson Valley VFA will be holding the Annual Ken Merriman Fire Police Seminar on Saturday, April 6 at the Saugerties Fire Station located at 43 Partition St. in Saugerties, Ulster County. Seminar runs from 8 AM to 3 PM. For more information please contact co-chairman Tom With by email at tomwith@hotmail.com.

ONESQUETHAW BREAKFAST

The Onesquethaw Volunteer Fire Company will be having their last all you can eat breakfast of the season on Sunday March 24 from 7:30 to 10:30 AM at the Clarksville Fire House located on Tarrytown Road in Clarksville. Menu includes pancakes, French Toast, bacon sausage, ham, home fries, eggs and beverages. Cost is \$12 for 10 years old and up, \$6 for ages 5-10 and under 5 are free.

WESTERLO FUNDRAISER BREAKFAST

The Westerlo Fire Company will be having a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 23 and April 27. Breakfast includes Pancakes, Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage patties, Gravy & biscuits, toast, Home Fries coffee, milk and juice. Donations will be accepted. The breakfast will be held from 8 to 11 AM at the Woodman's Hall located at 980 County Route 401 in Westerlo.

NEW SALEM FD FISH FRY FRIDAYS

The New Salem Fire Dept will be selling Fish Fry Dinners on the following Friday's during March the 8th, 15th and the 22nd. This will be held at the New Salem Fire Station located at 694 New Salem Road in New Salem and will be available for EAT IN OR FOR TAKE OUT. Dinners will be a Haddock Fish Fry, French Fries or Baked Potato and Cole Slaw for \$15.00 and New England Clam Chowder will also be available for \$5.00. Dinners will be available from 4:30 to 7 PM or until sold out.

**BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY
AT EAST BERNE NEW STATION**

The East Berne Fire Company on Saturday, March 30th from 8 am to Noon will hold their Annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt. The Easter Bunny will be there taking pictures with the kids. Breakfast is donation only and consists of Pancakes, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs and hash browns. The easter egg hunt will begin at 12 Noon for kids 13 and under. Please bring a basket or bag to collect eggs with goodies in them. This will be held at the New East Berne Fire Station located at 792 Helderberg Trail in East Berne.

COEYMANS FIRE CO ROAST BEEF DINNER

The Coeymans Fire Company will be having a drive thru roast beef dinner on April 18th from 3:30 to 6:30 or until sold out. Location is the Coeymans Fire House located at 66 Church ST. in Coeymans.

MESSAGE FROM 2 VP MATT WILCENSKI

As 2nd Vice President of the ACVFA I'm glad to see we gained another new member from the Voorheesville Fire Dept. Please keep up the good work and hopefully we can get more new members. Also if anyone in your Department or Company is interested in becoming a nationally certified Safety Officer let me know and I can pass it on to Jeff Bailes who is an instructor for the Fire and EMS safety Officers Association.

MARCH 2024

RECRUIT NY 2024

The Annual RECRUIT NY weekend will be held during the weekend of April 13th & 14th. Sponsored by FASNY, Companies and Departments can use this time to help recruit new members. You can plan on having an Open House, put on public demonstrations or let the community know what your Company does for them. You can register and download numerous resources to help promote your open house at recruitny.org

**FASNY AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP
DEADLINE IS MARCH 15**

March 15 is the deadline to submit nominations for the many awards that FASNY gives out each year. It is also the deadline for submitting for one of the 25 Gerald J. Buckenmeyer scholarships that are given out each year. This is a \$1500.00 scholarship awarded to High School seniors entering College. Apply online at fasny.com/scholarship. For other awards visit fasny.com/awards for applications and information

HUDSON VALLEY HAZ-MAT SEMINAR

The HVVFA Haz-Mat, Homeland Security and Training Committee along with the Fire and Accident Prevention Committee will present the Annual BILL ECK and JOHN J. MULLIGAN Haz-Mat March 23 at the Athens Volunteer Fire Dept. Station located at 39 3rd Street in the Village of Athens in Greene County. Registration begins at 8 AM with the Seminar starting at 8:30 AM. Certificates will be issued following the Seminar. Registration fee is \$10.00 per attendee and covers the seminar and Lunch on site. Pre-registration is strongly urged as seating is limited. Pre-register by E Mail to Fred Pettingell at fpettingell@aol.com and put HVVFA seminar on the subject line. Some of the Topics include Tactical response to Natural Gas and Propane emergencies and Group Home Awareness. For more info contact Kurt Mulligan at kmulligan@stonypointfire.com

ACVFA CURRENT OFFICERS

President	Robert White	772-9807
1st Vice President	Tom Cascone	441-5162
2nd Vice President	Matt Wilcenski	650-6115
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**

MARCH 2024

CALENDER OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR 1 – SELKIRK #1 LADIES FISH FRY DINNERS START. ALSO 3/15 & 29th. INFO ON PAGE 3
MAR 8 – New Salem FD Fish Fry Dinners. Also on 3/15 and 22nd. info on page 4
Mar 8 & 22 & APR 5 Selkirk CO #2 Fish Fry Dinners Glenmont Station. Info on Page 3
MAR 13 - ACVFA MEETING AT RAVENA 7:30
MAR 23 – HVVFA HAZ-MAT SEMINAR AT ATHENS. INFO ON PAGE 5
MAR 23 – Westerlo Fire Company Breakfast. Woodman's Hall info on page 4
MAR 24 – Onesquethaw Fire Breakfast at Clarksville Station. 7:30 to 10:30 am. Info page 4
MAR 25 – LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING AT S.W. PITTS (LATHAM) 7:30PM
MAR 28 – Voorheesville BBQ Info on page 3
MAR 28 – Albany County Fire Police Meeting at Woodman's Hall in Westerlo Info on Page 4
MAR 30 – East Berne FD Breakfast with Easter Bunny Info on page 3
APR 6- HVVFA FIRE POLICE SEMINAR AT Saugerties. INFO ON PAGE 4
APR 13 & 14– RECRUIT NY WEEKEND. INFO PAGE 5
APR 18 – Coeymans Fire Co Drive Thru Roast Beef Dinner. 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM or sold out.
MAY 8– ANNUAL MEETING ACVFA AT EAST BERNE NEW STATION 792 HELDERBURG TRAIL(ROUTE 443)
 Please remember that any event listed is subject to change. Please check with the sponsoring organization to make sure the event is still scheduled.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 15. SEND INFO TO JOHN WEBB AT jlwsec@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

To receive the newsletter by E mail send the editor an e mail requesting the newsletter be sent that way. Send the E mail to jlwsec@gmail.com
 Every E mailed newsletter saves the Association \$1.90


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Diana Balling
LAFASNY Jr. Past President

1041 Blue Mountain Road
 Saugerties NY 12477

dlb@megacity.org / 845-389-7115



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MARCH 2024

LETTER FROM VOORHEESVILLE FD ABOUT A POSSIBLE FUND RAISING SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

TO MEMBERS OF THE ACVFA

I hope this letter finds you well. We are reaching out to you with an exciting opportunity to make a positive impact in our community and support a cause that truly matters. WE are thrilled to announce the upcoming softball tournament organized to raise funds for the Albany Burn Fund. Event details (Date/Time/Location) to be determined later.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

There are several ways you can participate and make a difference:

FORM A TEAM: Active Volunteer members only, can form a softball team and compete for a good cause. It's a fantastic team building opportunity and a chance to showcase your softball skills.

SPONSORSHIP: \$500 Donation/entry fee, which will go towards our fundraising goal. Your FireHouse logo will be prominently displayed, showing your commitment to community welfare.

ATTEND and CHEER: Even if you're not playing, come out to the event, enjoy the games and cheer for the teams. Your presence will add to the excitement and help create a vibrant atmosphere.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

The funds raised from this tournament will directly benefit The Albany Burn Fund, providing much needed resources for Burn survivors. Your support will contribute to medical assistance, counseling services and ongoing research to improve the lives of those affected by burn injuries.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

This softball tournament is more than just a game; it's an opportunity to come together as a community and contribute to a cause that has a significant impact on the lives of many. The Albany Burn Fund is dedicated to supporting burn survivors and their families, providing crucial assistance during their journey to recovery.

FUN FOR EVERYONE: The tournament isn't just for seasoned athletes-it's an inclusive event for players of all skill levels. Enjoy a day filled with laughter, camaraderie, and friendly competition. Win or lose, the experience is what matters most.

PRIZES and RECOGNITION: Exciting prizes await the winning teams and participants will receive certificates of appreciation. Plus, your team's name will proudly displayed as a supporter of The Albany Burn Fund, recognizing your commitment to making a positive impact.

REGISTER TODAY

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to be a part of something meaningful. Register your team, become a sponsor or simply attend to show your support. Together, we can make a positive impact and create a community that cares.

For more information and registration details, please contact me at Vincommisso@hotmail.com

Thank you for considering this invitation. Your support means the world to us, and together we can make a real difference in the lives of Burn Survivors.

Sincerely,

Vinny Commisso
Delegate, Voorheesville Fire Department

MARCH 2024

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