

THE PULSE

HCFAS-
PROUDLY
VOLUNTEERING
SINCE 1967

THE HEARTBEAT OF THE HUNTINGTON COMMUNITY FIRST AID SQUAD

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Questions? Submissions?

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President's Report- Seth Fischer

Happy April, hope everyone is well.

"A person who chooses to act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility and without concern for monetary profit, going beyond one's basic obligations"—that is the definition of a volunteer.

While that may be the official definition, I think we can all agree this simple word has so much more meaning to all of us at HCFAS.

When many of us first signed up to volunteer at HCFAS, we shared a similar mindset; to give back to our Community, and help our neighbors. During the initial process, when we first joined, we were told we would have to fulfill minimum squad requirements. Fast-forwarding to today, we see that an overwhelming majority of our members have turned their initial minimum requirement, into complete dedication and commitment. Every day we see things from our members that no other organization can do. For that reason, I personally want to thank everyone for your continued support of HCFAS.

I leave you with these words. We are all "volunteers" by definition, but we are much more than that. At the end of the day, we are regular people. We sacrifice family time, and free time to come together, for our Community. We do not expect a "thank you" after every call; fortunately saying "thank you" is not always needed. We leave our shifts knowing we made a difference.

Keep up the great work, and continue to be the greatest group of volunteers!

Seth

Chief's Report - David Kaufman

Dear members,

I hope everyone had a nice Easter. Thank you to special events and Ann Maloney for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt.

Keep up the great work everyone. We successfully completed the first quarter of 2021. Thank you for all the hard work and time you dedicate as volunteers to HCFAS.

We have had some notable county-wide pandemic protocol changes in the last month. The most notable ones are the rescinding of the pandemic protocol, the return of BLS nebulized medications (via BAN), and the pandemic triage level lowered to surveillance. If you have any questions about these changes, please contact an officer for assistance or clarification. As always, use caution on calls to reduce exposure and wear appropriate PPE.

I hope you all are enjoying March Madness. My team, UConn, got knocked out in the men's and women's tournaments fairly early on, but it's always nice to see new teams rise to the challenge and get their chance at a championship.

Spring is finally here. We had quite a snowy winter, and while it was good for skiing, it was also cold and messy. We'll now get some warmer weather so keep an eye out for the standby requests we're bound to get.

In April we celebrate both Earth Day and Arbor Day. I urge you to get out there and get your hands dirty. Gardening can be both relaxing and rewarding, which is something we all need in the midst of a pandemic.

I would like to share a favorite quote on the topic which applies both to the upcoming holidays and the work we do to make the HCFAS a better place.

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." - Nelson Henderson

Warmest regards,
David

1st Deputy Chief – Ryane Como

Spring is upon us and we've completed the first quarter of the year! I certainly welcome the warmer weather and longer days, and hope everyone has been getting outside to enjoy the change in season.

The news continues to be full of COVID stories. While vaccinations are continuing and numbers fluctuate, please remain cautious on calls and inside the building. Please continue to wear masks, social distance, wash hands frequently, and disinfect surfaces. We will communicate when any internal policies change.

As always, please stay home and contact me if you are having any signs / symptoms of illness or if you have a positive COVID exposure. Please follow NYS guidelines regarding testing and quarantine if you travel.

The first quarter ended on March 31st. Letters will be going out to those that fell short. If you think there has been an error or want to discuss the letter with me, please feel free to email or call. The second quarter is from 4/1-6/30; everyone needs 48 hours per quarter.

Please remember to finger in and out on the same shift. If you are unsure about your hours or don't know if you need finger read corrections, please contact your Day Captain.

I am no longer able to schedule any vaccine appointments or send lists of names to County.

1st responders can visit <https://vax4.suffolkcountyny.gov/patient/s/> for appointments at Suffolk County Vaccination Facilities and complete the Vaccine Appointment Scheduler.

To make an appointment at the state-operated vaccination sites, including SUNY Stony Brook at Southampton, SUNY Stony Brook at Stony Brook, Suffolk Community College in Brentwood, Jones Beach, and other vaccination sites, call the New York State hotline at: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX or visit am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/

Veterans can obtain information about getting the vaccine from your VA health care provider or from the VA COVID-19 Vaccine Information page: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>.

Once you have received both doses, please place a copy of your vaccine card in Brian Canty's mailbox.

If anyone has any suggestions, complaints, or questions please reach out to me. We can't make changes or corrections if we don't know about a problem! Thank you for your continued service to HCFAS.

2nd Deputy Chief – Jaclyn Rittershaus

Hello fellow members. Spring is in the air! I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather.

April's review training will consist of the three mandatory and yearly trainings: sexual harassment, blood borne pathogens, and HIPAA. We will be using the GCN training website, which is the program we used last year. If anyone has trouble logging in, or completing the trainings, I would be happy to help!

Huntington Hospital is now requiring that we do a hospital pre-notification for every patient we transport there, no matter the nature of the call. They also provided us a template to be used specifically for trauma notifications, which will be posted in the ambulances.

Mark Brenner will be teaching an Emergency Vehicle Operations CME on Zoom, Wednesday April 7 from 1900 to 2100 hours. This class fulfills the two-hour non-core Emergency Vehicle Operations requirement for the revised CME program. Any EMT whose certification is expiring this year is highly encouraged to attend if they have not yet fulfilled this requirement. Thank you, Mark, for all the great things you do for the squad!

Thank you, Jeff Brenner, for teaching CPR and a much needed BLS 12-lead course last month! Thank you, Alex Bayer, also for teaching CPR last month! Last but not least, thank you, Gail Glistler and Chrissie Tedone, for working on a tedious administrative task and helping me gather training records!

Have a great April everyone. Remember to gather as much patient info as possible for insurance and to finish your PCRs on time!

Sincerely,

Jackie

3rd Deputy Chief – Bill Connolly

Greetings, everyone! I would like to thank everyone who participated in the work detail last month. We checked out all the ambulances and cleaned the garage and maintenance closet. The new 21 has arrived and is in service. I would like to thank Brian Canty, Bernard Poole, and Chief David Kaufman for their efforts in organizing the purchase of the new ambulance.

In the new ambulance you will notice a few items are in different locations than we are accustomed. Please familiarize yourself with this set up. Feel free to reach out to me with questions or concerns. Stay well and be safe.

Bill Connolly 2-15-33

Chief Dispatcher - Mike Capotosto

Dispatch Training: Our Dispatch Training Committee was busy this month - February saw 5 new members and 4 Post members pass dispatch training. Congratulations to Michelle Franco, John Stevens, Sierra Beck, Matthew Phillip, Selena Ortiz, Brooke Brigati, Allison Brown, Erin Gallagher, and Jamie Suesser.

Statistics: We closed out February with 436 total calls, transporting 83.3% of calls, getting back toward our usual 85%.

We had 96 Priority 36 calls this month and expect this number to increase as we're receiving 36-A calls now (previously screened out by County). Please make sure you continue to take precautions and wear your PPE.

We had some mistakes in our statistics. After correcting it, we have 3 mutual aids year to date and have covered calls from two outside agencies. We've had people respond to the building as backup personnel 39 times this month.

Please remember to add your paramedics to personnel and put the (P) or (Cc) next to the unit any time an ALS provider responds to a call.

Reminders: Suffolk County is still allowing us extended time to identify crews – up to 20 minutes for Alpha calls, or 6 minutes for Bravo, Charlie, Delta, or Echo calls. Any EMT or Paramedic on-scene can shorten or lengthen this time.

We are also required to dispatch calls based on priority code order. We can redirect crews to respond to a higher priority calls if they are not “within sight or sound” of the scene.

Pagers are available for anyone who lives in district and is willing to answer up. If you're interested, speak to your captain.

Thank you,
Mike Capotosto

A decorative border with a repeating floral and scrollwork pattern in a light beige or cream color, surrounding the central text area.

Save the Date!

The HCFAS Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the June 14th GMM will be taking place at the Larkfield from 6:30 to 10:00 PM. We will have a cocktail reception utilizing the garden room and outside patio. It is our plan to conduct the business that usually takes place at our Annual Installation.

Due to limitations on public gatherings, this will be an HCFAS member only event.

Keep an eye out for an electronic invitation.

Join us on ZOOM for the January GMM on Monday April 12th at 7:30 PM.

Check your email for information. Reach out if you need any help.

Company 1 – Captain Dale Bartolomeo

SUNDAY

Sunday's have been chugging along very well!!

Thank you to everyone who has been helping out on Sunday's for the first quarter. Everyone's help and dedication is never gone unnoticed.

Please keep up with review trainings and checkouts.

Please remember to clock in and out for your shift.

If anyone ever needs anything, please reach out to myself or any other officer.

Company 2 – Captain Paul Bayer

MONDAY

Hello HCFAS volunteers, from your Monday Captain! Here again with news from Company 2 for March 2021.

Congratulations to Emily Berkowitz who became our newest Crew Leader this month! Welcome back to Bob Biersack to the 0700 crew! We missed you Bob! Now we have smiles on our faces and snacks in our bellies!

Again a big thank you to all the members who help out on Mondays so regularly. Aaron Surette, Betty Wood, John Connors, Steve Zeth, Jeff O'Neill, Nicki Campbell, Brandon Eybergen, Tom Lemp, Pam Brenner, Captain Colin Weigele and Captain Casey O'Riordan - a big thank you to all of you!

Of course, no Captain's report is complete without a pleading for help! We need a full second due crew on both the 1100 and 1500 shifts, as well as a first and second full crew on the overnight. We also need ALS on most shifts. If you're looking to fulfill your hours on a great day with great people – please give me a call and let me know when is good for you!

Thanks for all that you do!

Company 3 – Captain Elizabeth Mohr

TUESDAY

Thank you to everyone who has helped out on Tuesdays, you guys are amazing. Happy spring! I hope all of you are enjoying the warmer weather and are being safe. Please remember to check out the ambulances and complete your monthly review trainings. Thank you to everyone who is continually coming for extra shifts! I truly appreciate each and every one of you.

Company 4 – Captain Eric Nazinitsky

WEDNESDAY

No Report.

Company 5 – Captain Colin Weigele

THURSDAY

Hello everyone!

I'd like to thank everyone on Thursdays for their amazing help this month and allowing the day to run smoothly. I would also like to thank everyone who has come in to help cover open spots throughout the day, such as Annette Hershkowitz, Andrew Taylor, Aaron Surette, Jim Mallillo, Shannon Gore, Jake Levinsky, Kenny Cadet, and Brandon Eybergen.

I'd like to welcome new member Eric Bantz #1638 to the Thursday 1500. We're happy to have you and looking forward to working with you!

Some help is still needed on Thursday
A driver is needed on the 1500 and 2300
A crew leader is needed on the 1900 and 2300

If anyone is able to help please let me know!

Colin Weigele 1553

Company 6 – Captain Kathy Castillo

FRIDAY

Happy Spring!! I'm still amazed at how many people come in either for their shift, backup shifts, or answer up when the pages go out. You all ROCK!!

I am in need of the following help each week:
0700- 2nd due CL
1100- 2nd due CL
1500- 2nd due CL
2300- dispatcher and 2nd due crew

Please let me know if you can help out.
Stay safe and love each other!

Company 7 – Captain Casey O'Riordan

SATURDAY

No Report.

Notes from Board Secretary Bob Franz

NYS Income Tax Claim for Volunteer Firefighters' & Ambulance Workers' \$200 Refundable Credit for 2020 – Bob Franz

You can claim the \$200 refundable credit for 2020 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.

LOSAP 2020 Points – Bob Franz

The 2020 LOSAP Records Listing was submitted to the Town of Huntington for Town Board approval in compliance with General Municipal Law.

2021 HCFAS Scholarship – Deadline July 1st – Bob Franz

The Board of Directors approved the awarding of up to six (6) five hundred dollar (\$500) squad scholarships to be given to any non-probationary HCFAS Squad member in good standing or a direct family member (spouse, son, daughter, brother, sister) residing in the same home as the sponsoring non-probationary member in good standing. A drawing will be held at the July 2021 General Membership Meeting to select from those applicants who have applied to the Secretary (Bob Franz) as of July 1st, with the appropriate application forms and with the required qualifying evidence. The Secretary will receive from the Chief, a declaration that those applicants are non-probationary members or family members of non-probationary members in good standing. These scholarships are to be an incentive for the applicants, who must present documentation (academic transcripts) of at least a 2.0 grade point average for the preceding year. The applicant must have been enrolled for a minimum of six college credit hours per semester (minimum two semesters) or the equivalent period at a vocational school. All 2020 scholarship winners are not eligible for the 2021 scholarship drawing. The application form can be found on the mail folder counter at the Squad and will be printed in the May Pulse. Incomplete applications submitted to the Secretary will be returned and not processed – all required documentation must be attached.

HCFAS Group Term Life Insurance Program -A New VFIS Beneficiary Form Needs to be Completed – Bob Franz

Thank you to everyone who has complied with this request. I request any non-probationary member who has not completed a form to do so and return the completed, signed and dated form to Secretary Bob Franz's mail box. This is a requirement to maintain coverage under the group life insurance program. A list of members who have not complied with this request is posted on the bulletin board.

BLS CPAP



APRIL 21, 2020

A BLS CPAP training class scheduled for Wednesday, April 21 at 1800 hrs to 2100 hrs. This training is required of all HCFAS BLS providers. It is open to all members as an original class or as a refresher. Those of you who did the skills on Thursday still need to do the lecture, written exam and have skill sheets signed off. Before signing up for the training, please watch the mandatory 50-minute.

You have to come for the whole class even if you are refreshing

AFTER watching the video, sign up.

Links for the video and signup are in the email from the Second Deputy Chef sent on March 31st.

COMING IN MAY

ALS

For the BLS provider

While the ALS protocols are written for a single provider, during a serious call the ALS providers have their hands full. Any help to provide better patient care and having an extra set of eyes to avoid mistakes is always welcome.

This will be a three part series training BLS providers to be more involved to assist the ALS providers in the house and on the ambulance.

Part 1 May review training highlighting a case study with a poor outcome.

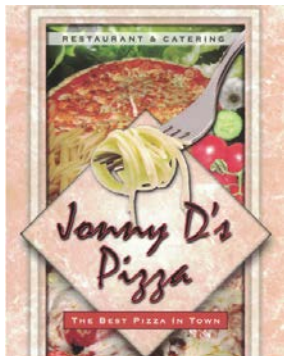
Part 2A An in person review of all the ALS equipment, Location/Use.

Part 2B Some hands on practice based on the May review training.

Dates and details to follow.

HCFAS Discounts- Dave Mohr

There are many places that offer discounts to Squad members. Even if you don't know if they do or don't, it can hurt to ask. I have had times when I have asked and the answer was 'we don't, but hold on' and they would go and talk to a manager/owner and in the end a discount was given. We have accumulated just some of the places in Huntington that offer a discount to Squad members. **If you know of a place that offers a discount to Squad members, put a note in Director David Mohr's mailbox or email me at davidmohr@yahoo.com.**



Jonny D's Pizza

946 New York Avenue

631-385-4444

15% Discount

Show Squad
Membership Card



15% Discount

Show Squad Membership Card



**15%
Discount**

Show Squad
Membership Card



10% Discount

Show Squad Membership Card



Flowerdale by Patty

"Elegance with a personal touch"

1933 New York Avenue

10% Discount

Show Squad Membership Card

BASICS – April 2021
Recertification
By Mark Brenner

I have been an EMT since 1978. During that time, there have been numerous changes to the curriculum. Often, those changes have come slowly. Case in point, the 2013 revision of the NYS EMT curriculum had been rolled-out by the Federal DOT back in 2008! Additionally, in the 2019 revision to the NYS BLS Protocols I had anticipated that BLS supraglottic airway (King airway) and intranasal Glucagon would be included. Afterall, many states throughout the country had included in their protocols.

So, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, I was impressed that the NYS DOH would grant a one-year extension to all certified EMS providers. But please note that New York State will NOT be extending certifications for another year. Many providers are realizing that it's time to refresh, either through a traditional refresher class or through the popular CME program. If you are not registered in the CME program, contact the HCFAS CME Coordinator Pam Brenner-Davis. You cannot accrue CME credit until you have completed the registration. And if you are a recently certified EMT, please contact the Second Deputy Chief who will provide you with the information to be credentialed in Suffolk County. This is MANDATORY!

Contrary to the rumor mill, EMT original and refresher, as well as CME classes are still being offered. They're just not being offered in as many locations, because those venues (fire houses, ambulance headquarters) have curtailed the admission of non-members to their facilities.

As I am writing this (3/17), I am looking at the Suffolk County EMS website (www.SuffolkRemsco.com). I see numerous classes being offered, many locally. Dix Hills FD hosts a BLS CME the second Saturday of each month, and an ALS CME on the third Saturday of each month. I also see BLS CME classes being offered at West Babylon FD.

If you are not certain about the new CME requirements, you can learn about them by visiting www.SuffolkRemnsco.com. Click on the CME Courses tab to the left side of the page, and when that page opens, click on the Gold Box marked CME. Related Paperwork can be found under Downloads and Forms. Keep in mind that Suffolk County "requires that all registered CME participants submit all completed CME paperwork to the Suffolk County EMS Division IN PERSON no later than sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of their certification." Prior to submission to the County, we must meet with our CME Coordinator, Pam Brenner-Davis. Please reach-out to Pam well in advance of the 60 days so that she can review your paperwork and sign-off on it (a requirement) before we meet with either Dina Wayrich or James MacDonnell. Pam's email is pamelabrenner@gmail.com.

If refreshing through the CME format, every provider must complete non-core CMEs, CPR recertification, and skills. If you need a CPR refresher, contact Michael Jacoby (CPR Coordinator) at CPR@hcfas.org. Please contact Michael at least 3 months before your card expires. And keep in mind, if you already have a CPR card, it must have 6 months left on the certification when you submit your CME to Suffolk County.

Non-core CME credit can be garnered through several means. The first and easiest way might happen because of the new format. For example, in the old BLS CME format Operations was a three-credit core CME; now it's a one-hour core CME. Those two (2) extra core hours now become non-core. Boom! The second way is through the HCFAS review trainings. Some of the trainings will not count such as sexual harassment or internet privacy. But the Call Review sessions given by Dr. Bandler through the HCFAS QA/QI committee count! Additionally, ZOOM classes have been posted this year and last year by the Second Deputy Chief. And Ex-Captain John Mancino has been posting Zoom class offerings via the Vital Signs Academy on the HCFAS Members only Facebook page. We can (and should) also take both the BLS 12-lead and BLS CPAP classes. We will receive non-core credit for these classes as well as learn new techniques that are state-of-the-art interventions that benefit our patients.

And finally, a note about the new Mandatory Non-Core classes, Mental Health of the EMT (1 hour), Safe Lifting, Moving and Transport of Patients (1 hour), Safe Transport of the Pediatric Patient (1 hour) and Emergency Vehicle Operations (2 hours). The first three classes have been rolled-into the existing CME classes. Please do not ask to only attend the part that you need.

I hope this helps everyone. Please recertify. The organization needs you. For those who have been doing this for a while, please continue to help the newer provider gain confidence and the street-smarts that you have accumulated. Together, we will continue to provide high-quality prehospital care for our patients and have enough providers to answer the calls.

Thank you for all you continue to do!

April 2021

HCFAS Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Spencer Newman
4 Jon Stone	5 Carol Dia & Keith Davis	6	7	8 Don Roulo & Louis Dell	9	10
11	12	13	14 Kathi Bonessi, Karen Martin & Jeff Brenner	15 Kevin Solano & Casey O'Riordan	16 Dana Silverstein	17 James Kelly
18	19 Janet Rubel & Seth Fischer	20 Fritz Barreau	21 Phil Orlando, Diane Muszynski & Zach Tuck	22 Paul Biersack & Luke Bartolomeo	23	24 Monica Mulchandani
25 Angle Kalodukas	26 Spike Ishikawa	27	28 Brian Canty	29	30	

April Length of Service and Longevity Awards to be presented at April GMM

5 Years

Eric Nazinitsky #1480

15 Years

Keith Rubenstein #1154

25 Years

Casey Stone #920

Thank you for your continued service!