

Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2025 General Membership Meeting
Date: February 10, 2025

Board of Directors and Operational Officers:

President Henry Waldron	PRESENT	Chief Dominic Heavey	PRESENT
Vice President Eric Kramer	PRESENT	First Deputy Chief Kathryn Donegan	PRESENT
Secretary Lehti Laas	ABSENT	Second Deputy Chief Keith Rubenstein	PRESENT
Treasurer Elizabeth Wood	PRESENT	Third Deputy Chief Matthew Philips	ABSENT
Brian Canty	PRESENT	Chief Dispatcher Patricia Tufo	PRESENT
Seth Fischer	PRESENT	Sunday Co. 1 Capt. James Kelly	PRESENT
Robert Franz	PRESENT	Monday Co. 2 Capt. Lily Poplawski	PRESENT
Bernard Poole	ABSENT	Tuesday Co. 3 Capt. Sheon Bacchus	PRESENT
		Wednesday Co. 4 Capt. Tiffany White	ABSENT
		Thursday Co. 5 Capt. Kenney Cadet	ABSENT
		Friday Co. 6 Capt. Eve Pollack	PRESENT
		Saturday Co. 7 Capt. Andrew Taylor	PRESENT

Welcome to the February 2025 General Membership Meeting.

The Meeting will come to order at 1930 hours

Acting Secretary Christine Tedone - Reported to President Henry Waldron that the required quorum of 50 members are present per the sign in sheet (eligible members 57).

Pledge of Allegiance Led by Jeffrey O'Neill – Please take a moment to remember all those who are serving in our armed forces and those who have lost their lives in the service of our country.

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

Get Well Wishes, Condolences and Prayers:

Our deepest condolences to Diane Musinski who lost her father in Poland around Christmas time. Our thoughts and prayers will remain with Diane and her Family.

Get Well wishes are being sent to James Barkocy. Our thoughts and prayers will remain with James for a complete and speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Casey McCormack on his recent Marriage. Best Wishes for a lifetime filled with many Blessings, Good Health and much Happiness.

Welcome Guest Speaker Josh Lugo who represents Punishers of New York Members of Service:

The First Annual EMS Memorial Motorcycle Ride Fundraiser will take place on Saturday, June 7th, 2025. Registration opens at 9:00 AM at KSU at 11:30 AM. The cost is \$30.00 per rider and \$10.00 per passenger. The Ride starts at FDNY EMS Academy located at 325 Pratt Avenue, Bayside, NY and Ends at Huntington Community First Aid Squad located at 2 Railroad Street, Huntington Station, NY. There will be Food, Vendors and Music by DJ Fatz.

Help to Support the Ride to benefit our fallen members of service. All proceeds will be donated to the EMS FDNY Help Fund. ALL Motorcycles are welcomed!

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

**45 Years of Service:
Lisa Mohr #573**

**35 Years of Service:
Claire Tesoriero #811**

**25 Years of Service:
Thomas Lemp #979**

Gregory Orr #983

Lisa Mohr #573 – Life Member - Forty-Five (45) Years of Service – Congratulations Lisa for forty-five years of loyal and dedicated service to the Huntington Community First Aid Squad. Thank you for all that you do, you are truly an asset to this Organization.

Claire Tesoriero #811 – Life Member - Thirty-Five (35) Years of Service – Congratulations Claire for thirty-five years of loyal and dedicated service to the Huntington Community First Aid Squad. Thank you for all that you do, you are truly an asset to this Organization.

Thomas Lemp #979 - Twenty-Five (25) Years of Service – Congratulations Thomas for twenty-five years of loyal and dedicated service to the Huntington Community First Aid Squad. Thank you for all that you do, you are truly an asset to this Organization.

Gregory Orr #983 - Twenty-Five (25) Years of Service – Congratulations Gregory for twenty-five years of loyal and dedicated service to the Huntington Community First Aid Squad. Thank you for all that you do, you are truly an asset to this Organization.

Motion made by John Palmieri and seconded by Fiona Witkowski to change the order of business to have a consensus vote on two SOP Changes: #01-2025 and #02-2025

Proposed SOP Changes #01-2024, #02-2024 and #03-2024 – Read by John Palmieri

Proposed SOP Change #01-2025

Proposal:

To change the current definition of Member in Good Standing to be more precise and consistent with the requirements imposed on Company 8 members.

Background/Justification:

The current definition of a Member in Good Standing is vague and requirements easily circumvented. Additionally, we, as an organization should hold all members to the same requirements.

Change (additions are underlined and deletions are ~~stricken~~):

Article II, Section 1 - Member in Good Standing

The status of a member in good standing is one that all members, including Administrative personnel, shall maintain. To be a member in good standing, a member must be in compliance with the Standard Operating Procedures, and be current in the completion of his duty tours or hourly commitment. have completed 75% of the required monthly shift hours year to date, and cannot be missing more than two (2) monthly review trainings, with passing grades.

Any member not in good standing for one (1) ~~quarter~~ month will receive a letter of intent from the First Deputy Chief or the Secretary stating that the missing shifts/hours must be made up in the following month. Any member not in good standing for more than two (2) ~~quarters~~ consecutive months during any twelve-month period will automatically be suspended for two (2) week and will be required to make up any duty tours missed as a result of the suspension. Members will be notified of their suspension in writing by the Chief or the Secretary and will be given the opportunity to appeal the suspension to the Board of Directors in accordance with Article III, Section 9 of the By-Laws. Any member not in good standing for more than ~~three (3)~~ two (2) quarters will automatically be suspended pending a hearing in accordance with Article III, Section 9 of the By-Laws. Members will be notified of their suspension in writing by the Chief or the Secretary and will be notified of the charges being brought against them.

Article II, Section 2 – On-Duty Crews:

1. Duty Tours

B. A ~~quarterly~~ monthly review of duty tour hours will be completed by the First Deputy Chief. Any member who has not completed the minimum of ~~forty-eight (48)~~ sixteen (16) duty tour hours per ~~quarter-month~~ month will be notified, in writing, by the First Deputy Chief or the Secretary and will be given ~~til~~ until the end of the following ~~quarter-month~~ month to make up those hours. A Board of Directors approved leave of absence will be exempt from the hourly requirement and will not have to be made up.

Discussions held in open Forum

Consensus Vote Taken – All Against

Proposed SOP Change #02-2025

Proposal:

To include HCFAS In House employees (paramedics and clerical staff) in Good and Welfare benefits/gifts.

Background/Justification:

With the addition of paid employees, the BOD feels it is appropriate to include these personnel with all members who receive items from the Good and Welfare Committee for various life occasions/events.

Change (additions are underlined and deletions are ~~stricken~~):

Article IX, Section 5 – Miscellaneous Protocols:

2. Good and Welfare Committee Guidelines:

Good and Welfare Guidelines will include squad members and in-house employees (eg. Paramedic staff and clerical staff) of HCFAS

- A. In the event of the death of a Squad member or employee, we shall send a wreath of red, white and blue flowers with the blue ribbon bearing the letters of HCFAS and the Squad emblem in the center. If it is a member's death, the emblem in the center will have Squad membership number. Cost guideline in 2011: up to \$250.
- B. Death of Squad member's or employee's spouse or child: flowers to be sent to the Funeral Home. Cost guideline in 2011: up to \$100.
- C. Death of Squad member's or employee's parent, step-parent or guardian living in the immediate area: flowers to be sent to the Funeral Home. Cost guideline in 2011: up to \$75.00
- D. Death of a Squad member's or employee's parent, step-parent or guardian living out of the area; flowers to be sent to the Funeral Home. Cost guideline in 2011: up to \$65 plus delivery costs, not to exceed \$85. If the funeral has taken place before flowers can reach the area, then either flowers or a fruit basket will be given to the member upon his return home.
- E. Death of a member's or employee's immediate Grandparent or sibling: Squad will acknowledge with a sympathy card.
- F. Death of a Charter member, Associate member, or former member: Squad will acknowledge with a sympathy card.
- G. Birth of a child to member or employee: flowers or fruit are sent for the parents in accordance with hospitalization criteria listed below plus a \$50 check for each baby.
- H. If a member or employee is admitted to a hospital: flower, a plant or a fruit basket is sent for each occurrence. Cost guideline in 2011: up to \$65, including delivery costs.
- I. If a member's or employee's spouse is hospitalized: flower, a plant or a fruit basket is sent for each occurrence. Cost guideline in 2011: \$60, including delivery costs.
- J. For children, parents, step-parents or guardians living in the same house as a member or employee who are hospitalized: flowers or something similar are to be sent to the hospital for each occurrence. Cost guideline in 2011: up to \$60, including delivery costs.

- 171 K. Any Squad member or employee getting married receives \$100. If two Squad members
172 or employees marry each other, the couple receives \$200.
173 L. Price guidelines may be adjusted each year by the Board of Directors.
174

175 **Discussions held in open Forum**
176

177 **Consensus Vote Taken: ALL in Favor**
178

179 **Motion made by Brian Canty and seconded by Roger Winter to place Proposed SOP**
180 **Change # 02-2025 in the Employee/Member Handbook.**
181 **.....Motion Approved Unanimously**
182
183

184 **President Henry Waldron – Report Posted**
185

186 Hello to All,
187

188 With the cold weather upon us, make sure you dress in layers. Drivers, allow extra time as the
189 roads are very slick and black ice is around. When you are moving a patient down a driveway,
190 be very careful as some residents do not shovel and the scene could be treacherous.
191

192 The St. Patrick's Day Parade is Saturday, March 9th. This year we are honored to have the
193 famous NYPD Emerald Society Pipes and Drums to lead us into the town. Signup sheet will
194 be posted. So break out your Class A or your yellow jacket. Chief Heavy has promised to have
195 refreshments ready before we march. Let's make a good showing at this event. It is going to be
196 a fun time. Let's show the community the pride we have in HCFAS.
197

198 **Acting Secretary's Report – Christine Tedone**
199

200 **Motion by Fiona Witkowski and seconded by Seth Fischer to approve the January 13, 2025**
201 **General Membership Meeting Minutes as amended and posted.**
202 **.....Motion Approved Unanimously**
203

204 **Correspondence Received:**
205

206 Thank you card received from Dercks, Goggins, Cruise and de Bruin Families
207

208 Thank you card received from Vanessa Franco
209

210 Thank you letter received from Jericho Fire Department
211

212 Thank you card and \$100.00 Donation received from Rose K. Subotnik
213

214 Thank you letter received from Tri-Community & Youth Agency & Family Service League
215
216

pat all please let me know!

Treasurer's Report – Elizabeth Wood – Report Posted

TREASURER'S EXPENSE REPORT:

GMM January 1, 2025 - January 31, 2025

5000 Payroll	\$ 50,455.65
5500 Billing Services	\$ 15,622.89
6000 EMS	\$ 34,819.45
6100 Vehicles	\$ 12,627.08
6200 Building	\$ 16,396.62
6300 Utilities	\$ 7,046.17
6400 Communications	\$ 5,084.72
6500 Accountant	\$ 14,828.48
6600 Insurance	\$ 18,717.01
6700 Office	\$ 1,545.46
6800 Uniforms	\$ 1,471.90
6900 Members Inspection	\$
7000 Training	\$ 1,200.00
7100 Public Relations	\$ 879.02
7300 Subsistence	\$ 4,196.97
8000 Other	\$ 827.57
8040 Medical Costs	\$
8070 New Member Screening	\$ 3,110.00

Total - \$ 188,828.99

Chief's Report – Dominic Heavey – Report Posted

Good Evening to all and a very Happy St. Valentine's Day.

Welcome to Josh and the members from the PUNISHERS who we are working with to make this event possible.

ALL members who haven't paid dues please make sure you pay your \$3.00 annual dues. These are now overdue and failure to pay by March 1st will result in loss of membership. Please send money to the treasurer via (Venmo it is @Treasurer_2150) or you can pay the treasurer (Betty Wood) directly.

2-15-24:

As the Chief Dispatcher reported we had a total of 19/24 for January 2025, with 617 Calls answered with an increase of 74 calls this time last year.

255 The Officers had a lengthy discussion on Wednesday about 24 and how we could decrease this
256 number.

257 DO NOT take back a 24. (Once we give the call back to med com we should forget about it.) If
258 the 24 comes back to us from Med Com then we respond as if it were another call.

259 When we take back a 24 we up set the agency who has taken the call. We are charged for that 24,
260 and then another call comes in yet another 24.

261 If we have ALS in house they should respond. If a Second ALS provider is in house they should
262 make up a crew and respond to the call.

263 If a crew answers up for the 24, the Dispatcher should ask them if they can standby and wait for
264 the crew to finish the call they are on at this time the crew finger in. If the crew cannot/does not
265 want to stay that is OK as well.

266 **VFIS Driving Training:**

267 VFIS Driving Training held on 01/14/2025. We had a total of 34 Students who attended the
268 course of which 26 were members of HCFAS.

269 **BLS Core CME:**

270 I am pleased to announce the BLS/CME classes will be held at HCFAS. These classes will be
271 held on the last Monday of every Month at 7:30 PM. These classes are open to all members of
272 HCFAS (if you are in an EMT Class, First Aiders, Drivers, EMT/ACL, Crew Leaders. EMTs
273 should be enrolled in the CME program contact Pam Brenner-Davis. These classes are also open
274 to EMT in the Second Division. Ex-Chief Mark Brenner will be giving these classes. We need to
275 have a minimum of 25 people to schedule these classes. As members you have asked for extra
276 training now it is here, it is your turn to answer.

277 **Gas Cards:**

278 A List of members who were approved for gas cards are posted downstairs. Please see the
279 Treasurer Betty Wood to get your card.

280 **Finger Read Report from Finger Reader:**

281 You as a member may now check your finger read/Reports from the finger reader. Member
282 number then enter Finger in (Do Not select a shift).

283

284 **First Deputy Chief – Kathryn Donegan – Report Posted**

285

286 Happy February All!

287 With all of the winter weather here and approaching, please take extra care on calls- you are
288 always the number one priority and your safety should always be the primary concern when
289 you are taking care of others.

290 Next month is our St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 9th! We officially have a band which is
291 very exciting. Looking forward to a wonderful turnout and parade day!

292 We're in the second month of the first quarter of the year, running from January 1st to March
293 31st. Each member is expected to complete 48 shift-hours per quarter. Let's work together to
294 ensure everyone stays on track, but remember that life happens—if you're struggling with your
295 hours, reach out! We're here to help. For clarity, the SOPs and By-Laws outline next steps if
296 hours aren't met, so be sure to review **Article II, Section 1 (pg. 8)** if needed.

297 If you have finger-read adjustments, please submit them as soon as possible. Adjustments must
298 be submitted within 30 days to be processed, so don't delay! If you have any concerns about this
299 process, the Board of Directors is here to assist.

300 There is a list of the permanent needs posted downstairs which I will periodically update.

301 It is also Installation season so please watch out for any standbys to cover our neighboring
302 departments as well as any others that may come up!

303 As always, if you have questions or concerns, reach out to your Captain or the appropriate
304 Chief so we can address them promptly. Communication is key to keeping everything running
305 smoothly, so please don't hesitate to speak up.

306 Stay safe, stay positive, and continue to support one another. Have a wonderful Valentine's
307 Day and a wonderful President's Week!

308

309

310 **Second Deputy Chief – Keith Rubenstein – Report Posted**

311

312 Good evening everyone,

313 Just a reminder we have two CME Classes coming up at the end of the month one on the 24th for
314 BLS CME - Part 1. Thank you to Mark Brenner for teaching this. The second is the 27th from
315 SBUH on PCR documentation.

316 The mandatory training is out on GCN if you cannot log on please reach out you will have until
317 April 1st to complete it.

318 We will be scheduling a PCR review with our Medical Directors coming up shortly stay tuned
319 for a date and time.

320 Thank you!

321

322 **Third Deputy Chief – Matthew Philip – Absent - Report Posted**

323 Good Evening Members,

324

325 Thank you to Michael Vincent Terry, Jr., John Stevens, Jackie de Bruin, Jake Levinsky, Natalie
326 Amaya, Julianna Lewandowski, Lauren Groser, Peyton Kalb, Benjamin Curry, Grant Werner,

327 Suzanne Philip, Mike Capotosto, Evelyn and Kemberlin Hernandez for helping out on 2300
328 shifts this month.

329
330 The Saturday schedule is looking good but there is a dire need for (2) Drivers and every week
331 for the 2300 shift. An overnight shift is a good way to catch up on hours or gain LOSAP points.
332 If anyone wants to come down for a shift contact me at (631)-553-3135.
333

334 **Chief Dispatcher – Patricia Tufo – Report Posted**

335 **CHIEF DISPATCHER’S REPORT – Feb. 01 thru Feb. 28, 2025**

336 Alarms.....456

337 Signal 24’s.....5

338 Signal 24% rate.....1.09

339

340 **Signal 24’s by Day of Week:**

341

342 Sunday.....2 (ytd = 2)

343 Monday.....0 (ytd = 5)

344 Tuesday.....1 (ytd = 1)

345 Wednesday.....1 (ytd = 8)

346 Thursday.....1 (ytd = 6)

347 Friday.....0 (ytd = 2)

348 Saturday.....0 (ytd = 1)

349

350 Year to date # Alarms.....1073 an INCREASE of 69 calls compared to 2024

351 Year to date # Signal 24’s.....24 a DECREASE of 4, compared to 2024

352 Year to date Signal 24% rate...2.23 compared to 2.78% in 2024

353 Year to date multiple calls running.....61.7%

354 Year to date Average # calls per day.....18.18

355 Thank you Drivers, Crew Leaders, EMTs/ First Aiders, ALS/Paramedics and Dispatchers for
356 your continued effort on your response and management of calls. It shows!

357 **Dispatchers** – If there is a negative transport once an ambulance has been sent out on the call
358 (ie: call cancelled, no patient found,/RMA) please select that reason in the Signal drop down
359 box or write it in the notes! This also includes VIPs where the ambulance is on a 9/16 sitting on
360 the ramp and the call gets cancelled by Medcom. If you do not do this, I have no way of knowing
361 what happened and why there was no transport.

362 Thank you for all that you do and keep up the good work!

363

364 **Company 1 - Sunday Day Captain James Kelly – Report Posted**

365

366 Hey Everyone!

367 As always, I would like to thank everybody that helped out this past month. All of your help kept
368 our ambulances rolling for our community and also managed to keep our 24s for the month at
369 precisely ZERO for Sundays so thank you so very much for all of your hard work.

370 **Sunday is always in need of help and has a number of permanent positions available to fill**

371 **0700 Shift: CLs (2)**

372 **1100 Shift: Full Crew**

373 **1500 Shift: Full Crew**

374 **1900 Shift: CL (2)**

375 **1300 Shift: Dispatcher, CR/CL, Full Crew**

376

377 **We also love to have FAs and ACLs on all shifts!**

378 Remember to do your checkouts at the beginning of every shift and PLEASE make sure you
379 restock any and all equipment that has been used on your calls. It isn't fair that another crew
380 needs to restock and clean up after the crew before them

381 Also, please make sure you check your emails and complete your mandatory training which was
382 sent out in an email by Second Deputy which must be completed by 4/01/2025.

383 Thanks for all of your hard work!

384

385 **Company 2 - Monday Day Captain Lily Poplawski – Report Posted**

386

387 Hey Everyone - Happy February!

388

389 We were able to finish January with only (3) 24s and we currently have 0 for February at the
390 time of this writing.

391

392 **Thank you to everyone who came down to help the last few weeks:**

393 Liz Perro, James Kelly, Barry Winter, Shannon Gore, Eve Pollack, Ryane Como, Hank Waldron,
394 Dany Portillo, Pam Brenner-Davis, Colin Weigele, Matthew Philip, David Kaufman, Natalie
395 Amaya, Dominic Heavey, Brian Canty as well as all the hardworking dedicated Company 2
396 members and many others. Your help is truly appreciated.

397

398 Please consider picking some Monday shifts! The following are PERMANENT openings!

399

400 **These need help EVERY week on top of vacancies that open up regularly:**

401 **1100 Shift: CL/DR**

402 **1900 Shift: (2) DRs**

403 **2300 Shift: Dispatcher, 1st due DR & 2nd due FULL CREW**

CMEs are back here at HCFAS with Company 2's own Mark Brenner! Please be on the lookout for CMEs posted and they will be held on the 4th Monday of the month. February will kick this off with Core Class 1- Respiratory!

Probationary members, please remember you need 5 meetings and 5 events as well as all RTs to come off probation. Also, if you are looking to start driver training and you are a Company 2 member please come see me.

Please continue to do your checkouts and keep radios on and with you on calls. Keep up the great work!

Thank you all for your consistent hard work and dedication on Mondays. Please be safe and I look forward to seeing you all around at some point!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns you can reach me Monday.Captain@hcfas.org or on my personal cell phone 631-374-5663.

Company 3 – Tuesday Day Captain Sheon Bacchus – Report Posted

Greetings HCFAS Members,

Firstly, thanks to all of you who answer up and pick up extra shifts. It is appreciated!

This Tuesday, 2/11/2025, we have some critical needs:

1100 - Second due Crew Leader

1500 - Second due Crew leader and an ALS provider

1900 - ALS Provider

2300 - Dispatcher and a first due Driver, Second due full crew

Tuesday Permanent shift needs are:

1100 - Second due Crew Leader

1500 - Second due full crew

1900 - Dispatcher and 2nd due Crew Leader

2300 - Dispatcher and a first due Driver, second due full crew

ACL preceptors are also needed on the 1100, 1900 and 2300 shifts.

F/A & ACL are welcomed on any shift. Please just email or call me to request to be added to the schedule.

Thanks for all that you do for our community!

Company 4 - Wednesday Day Captain Tiffany White – Absent - Report Posted

Good Evening all,

I want to thank all of those who have helped out on Wednesdays. I greatly appreciate it. Wednesday received (7) 24s, of which were 3rd or 4th call.

I want to give a special thank you to both Bobby's; Bobby Biersack and Bobby Loych for staying a lot longer than they anticipated last Wednesday to help out on the 1500 shift.

As of right now, Wednesday is still in need of: 1100 - full 3rd due crew, 1500 - full 3rd due crew, 2300 - full 2nd due crew.

Once again thank you to my Company 4 crews for continuing to come in each week and completing your shifts, your time and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Just going to leave you all with something to think about; "I didn't become an EMT to get a front row seat to other people's tragedies. I did it because I knew the world was bleeding and so was I and somewhere inside I knew the only way to stop my own bleeding was to learn how to stop someone else's." - Daniel Jose Older.

Company 5 - Thursday Day Captain Kenney Cadet – Absent – No Report

Company 6 - Friday Day Captain Eve Pollack – Report Posted

Hello everyone! Happy Love Week!

Thank you all for helping company 6 start off 2025 strong! I am so excited for pizza night tomorrow. Thank you to all who signed up, it will be a wonderful night filled with great food and even better company!

In the next few months it is my hope to teach a CME on de-escalating strategies so please stay tuned to that!

For this week, (2) Drivers are needed on the 0700 and the 1100 shifts. A CL is needed on the 1100 and ALS is needed on the 1500-2300 shifts.

Please let me know if you are available to do some or any of those shifts. First Aiders and ACLs are *always* welcome so come on down and spend your Fridays getting to know what Company 6 is all about!

Company 7 - Saturday Day Captain Andrew Taylor – Report Posted

Good Evening Everyone,

A special thank you to all members of Company 7, Company 8 and everyone who has dedicated their time on Saturdays to ensure our operations run smoothly. Your hard work and commitment are truly appreciated!

Congratulations to Company 7 member Andrew Ganley (#1750) on successfully passing his Ambulance Orientation and becoming a First Aider.

A big Congratulations as well to Post Member Christopher Leslie on earning Badge #1760! Wishing both Andrew and Christopher the best of luck in their EMT course and training both at the squad and in class. Your dedication and passion for service are truly inspiring!

A heartfelt thank you to the following individuals for their contributions to our successful Saturday operations: Tuesday Captain Sheon Bacchus, Wednesday Captain Tiffany White, Sunday Captain James Kelly, Ex-Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos, Ex-Chief Jeff Brenner, Dana Silverstein, Paul Bayer, Daniel Fischer, Christy Stiles, Dany Portillo, Bobby Loysch, Suzanne Philip, Chelsea Keatley and Tom Romano.

Your dedication does not go unnoticed and we sincerely appreciate all that you do. Thank you for your continued support and commitment!

Operational Update – "A heartfelt thank you to Captain James Kelly, Andrew Ganley, Paul Bayer and Barry Winter for their dedication in covering the Commack Standby this past weekend. Your time and efforts are truly appreciated. A special thank you as well to Suzanne Philip for coordinating everything so smoothly. Your hard work behind the scenes does not go unnoticed!"

We are in need of additional coverage for: Dispatcher shifts: 1900 and 2300 Second-due crew: 1100, 1500 and 2300 ALS coverage: 1500 and 1900.

Your continued diligence and commitment to HCFAS do not go unnoticed and are deeply appreciated.

Delegate & Committee Reports:

LOSAP- Two Form 1099 for Payments in 2024 – Bob Franz

Members who received monthly LOSAP benefit payments in 2024 will be receiving Two (2) Form 1099 for 2024 in January 2025. In 2024, Glen Falls National Bank and Trust changed to Arrow Bank National Association. Payment recipients will receive one Form 1099 for the period January to November 2024 issued by Glen Falls and a second Form 1099 for December 2024 issued by Arrow.

NYS Income Tax Claim for Volunteer Firefighters' & Ambulance Workers' Refundable Credit for 2024 – Bob Franz

You can claim the \$200 refundable credit for 2024 on the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance **Form IT-245**. As per the instructions, **you cannot claim the credit if you receive a real property tax exemption that relates to your volunteer service under Real Property Tax Law**. The ambulance workers' credit is available to full-year NYS residents who are active volunteer ambulance workers for the entire tax year for which the credit is claimed. A copy of

the Form IT-245 & instructions is posted on the bulletin board. If you have any technical questions, consult your independent tax advisor.

10 % Property Tax Exemption – Bob Franz

The filing deadline with the Town of Huntington (TOH) Assessor is Monday March 3, 2025 (since March 1, 2025 is a Saturday) for property tax year 12/01/25 to 11/30/26. **The property must be owned by the volunteer or the volunteer and spouse only.** Members who are currently receiving the 2 -year or 20-year status tax exemption will have their years status bulk-renewed by the Squad by the deadline date.

Current exemption recipients who moved or sold their home prior to March 1, 2025, or had other ownership changes, please drop a note with your detail information in Director Bob Franz's mail box. If you moved and purchased another home, you must complete a new application form for your new primary residence.

Members who will be eligible for the first time (achieved at least 2 years or more of service by 3/1/25 and own a home which is their primary residence (title must transfer by 3/1/25)), please complete an application form and place it in Director Bob Franz's mailbox before Friday February 7, 2025. Exemption Application Forms are on the Bulletin Board or were distributed to you via email or USPS. **A legible copy of your driver's license to show proof of primary residency must be included with the application.** To be eligible, the property must be owned by the volunteer or the volunteer and spouse only, the property must be your prime residence and be in the Town of Huntington and you must have a minimum of 2- years of active squad service by March 1, 2025.

For members with 20 or more years of service by March 1, 2025, the property can be located anywhere in Suffolk County (Call Bob Franz at 631 421-9121 or email robo4200@hotmail.com for specific details).

Note for members currently receiving the property tax exemption: If you do not want the Squad to renew your property tax exemption on 3/01/25 because you intend to take the \$200 NYS income tax credit for calendar year 2026, please put a note in Bob Franz's mailbox **prior to February 7, 2025.**

Important Alert Note – not legal advice: The majority amount of the tax exemption is attributable to a Squad Member's taxing jurisdiction – "the School District". Resolutions that were passed by School Districts under a new NYS Real Property Tax Law (enacted in December 2022 RPTL section 466-a) in December 2023 or January 2024 excluded certain volunteers because the volunteer's primary residence was not located in the area served on a primary basis by the volunteer's Squad. Many taxing jurisdictions wanted to extend the real property tax exemption to all EMS volunteers residing within their jurisdiction even if the volunteer's primary service area was in a neighboring jurisdiction. In September 2024, Governor Hochul signed NYS Real Property Tax Law 466-1 which solves this problem but it is **not** automatic. The School District must pass a resolution stating that it agrees to extend the benefits under RPTL section 466-a to any volunteer ambulance worker who lives within the School District but provides volunteer services to a neighboring School District under RPTL 466-1.

Members who live in a primary residence in Huntington and South Huntington School Districts, both of which are in the Huntington Community Ambulance District, should not be affected by the new RPTL section 466-1.

LOSAP 2024 Points – Bob Franz

The 2024 LOSAP Point listing is 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. Elected Officer and Committee Chairs points are in process of being posted. All 2024 LOSAP forms had to be submitted by the third Saturday in January (1-18-25).

LOSAP 2025 Points – Bob Franz - The LOSAP point committee puts incomplete submitted LOSAP forms for your correction in a basket on the mail folders counter top. Please check this basket and immediately, make any required corrections and return the form to the LOSAP point committee. **Please use the correct LOSAP Form to record the event – Training, Meeting, Miscellaneous and make sure it is legible so that it is entered correctly and not be rejected.** All Finger Read Adjustments should be submitted within 30 days of the event to allow sufficient time to verify the requested correction.

A copy of the Defined Benefit LOSAP Point System is posted on the Squad bulletin board, was included in the February Pulse and is on the website for your information on how to earn points in compliance with NYS General Municipal Law as approved by the Town of Huntington.

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

The SERVES Administrative Guide is posted on the bulletin board and is available on line Go to www.suffolksbravest.com.

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 application and supporting documentation for each semester must be submitted no later than the 8th Friday of the academic calendar.

Some highlights of the SERVES program follow.

- The program is a reimbursement program with an award payment made directly to the student-volunteer at the completion of each semester.
- SERVES provides a reimbursement based upon tuition costs at Suffolk County Community College- i.e. as of July 2024, the maximum payment for a 12 plus credit schedule (full-time status) with a GPA of 3.75 to 4.00 or an “A” would be \$2,915. The student-volunteer will receive reimbursement based upon a sliding scale related to their GPA.
- The number of credits supported by the program; **full or part time**; covers a Bachelor’s Degree or up to 120 credits (see administrative guide for definition of lifetime credit hours). If you already earned 120 credits of higher education, you are **not** eligible for SERVES.
- The student-volunteer agrees to use SERVES funds only to supplement any tuition not covered by sources of free financial aid (TAP, PELL, APTS and etc.)
- The student-volunteer must maintain acceptable volunteer activity and training during their entire course of study. There is also a volunteer service obligation of one to five years after attendance at a college or university based upon the number of credits taken under the program.

- Applications are date stamped upon receipt and the earliest dated applications shall be reviewed first as SERVES funds shall be disbursed on a first come, first served basis.

Grants for Volunteer Ambulance Workers who are looking to Purchase a Home – Bob Franz

As I mentioned at the January meeting there is a \$50,000 grant program for eligible volunteer ambulance workers who are looking to purchase a home. Eligible applicants may receive up to \$26,000 in down payment assistance and \$24,000 for repairs. Information is on the bulletin board above the mail folder counter. Louis Dell is working on a required member eligibility policy which is required in order to be an approved company so our members will be able to participate in the grant program.

NYSVARA/DISTRICT 7 – Andrea Golinsky

The Squad and individual member dues for 2025 was paid by HCFAS but members may have received online requests for payment. If any squad member has paid their individual dues please let me know so I may contact the NYSVARA Treasurer for your refund.

Please make sure NYSVARA has your correct email address. You should be receiving information about how NYSVARA is working with the NY State Government for EMS agencies and personnel to provide the best care to our patients and for the safety of EMS providers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at HCFAS.315@gmail.com.

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

Building Committee – Roger Winter – We will be getting a new Heating System in the Dispatch Office.

CME Committee – Pamela Brenner-Davis – By Mark Brenner – If you are not already enrolled in the CME Program you need to register. If you are not registered and would like to do so, please contact Pamela Brenner-Davis. You must be certified for the CME Program. All members regardless of status are welcome to join. There is a minimum of 25 members for these classes.

Driver Training Committee – Jeffrey Brenner & Dominic Heavey – Please use caution and when driving in the inclement weather. Remember ALL accidents even minor incidents MUST be documented and reported immediately. Drive Safe!

Fund Drive Committee – Mary Brenner & Joan Florio – The received Funds are still being calculated by the FDC.

Interview Committee – Joanne Cunningham – The Committee is seeking members to conduct interviews. If you are interested please place your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board downstairs.

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

Special Events Committee – Brian Canty – The HCFAS Annual Installation Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Larkfield Manor on Larkfield Road in East Northport, NY. Please RSVP by March 1st, 2025 if you plan to attend.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt – Ann Maloney – The Children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at the Jefferson Elementary School. An Easter Bunny is needed. We are seeking help with this event. If you are interested in helping out please contact Ann Maloney.

Stand-By Committee – Kenney Cadet, Peyton Kalb & Suzanne Philip - Hello Everyone, Thank you for your help with Standbys! Recently, we covered Commack for their Installation Dinner. A big thank you to James Kelly, Andrew Taylor, Andrew Ganley, Barry Winter and Paul Bayer for forming two crews for the event.

On 2/22/25, we need coverage for Brentwood's Installation Dinner from 1200-1800. A Crew Leader is also needed.

Standbys are a great way to get involved at HCFAS and count as events for all probationary members. Check the whiteboard downstairs for any upcoming standbys.

In Closing:

Has everyone fingered in?

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

Social and Kitchen Committees: A Special thanks to Lisa Mohr, Bob Biersack, Angie Kalodoukas, Joanne Cunningham, Kevin McCann, Carol Nucci, Christy Stiles

New Business:

Chief Dominic Heavey - Please be advised that the Huntington Town St. Patrick's Parade will be held on Sunday, 9th, March 2025. All members wishing to march should be at HQ no later than 1:00 PM in Class A or B Uniform. The Parade will kick off at 2:00 PM. We will have the NYPD Pipes and Drums lead us into Town this year. Refreshments will be provided prior to the Parade. I Hope to see everyone there.

Captain Lily Poplawski – Interviews are needed for new and incoming members. Please contact the Interview Committee if you are able to assist them.

Old Business: None

Various Raffles:

Cheesecake Factory \$25 Gift Card – Suzanne Philip

Home Depot \$25 Gift Card – Joanne Cunningham

Panera Bread \$25 Gift Card – Eve Pollack

Target \$25 Gift Card – Patrick Donegan

Bottle of Wine – Lorrie Stone

Bottle of Wine – Jacob Zaidel

Members in Attendance: Eligible Members 57, Probationary Members 3, Total: 60

Motion made by Brian Canty and seconded by Mark Brenner to adjourn the General Membership meeting at 2105 hours.

.....Motion Approved Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine A. Tedone

Assistant Secretary

Lehti A. Laas

Secretary

Draft Posted: March 2025

Draft Approved: March 2025