

**Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2025 General Membership Meeting
Date: January 13, 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	ABSENT
Treasurer Elizabeth Wood	ABSENT	Third Deputy Chief Matthew Philips	PRESENT
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	PRESENT	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 January 2025 General Membership Meeting.

The Meeting will come to order at 1937 hours

Acting Secretary Christine Tedone reported to Vice President Eric Kramer that the required quorum of 50 members are present per the sign in sheet (eligible members 55).

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Roger Winter to dedicate tonight's Meeting in honor of Life Member Elizabeth Steenson #820.

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

Next Monday is Martin Luther Kings, Jr. Holiday. An observance whereby we celebrate, commemorate and honor the life, legacy and impact of Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr.

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 the family of Life Member Elizabeth Steenson #820. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Steenson Family.

Our deepest condolences to the family of Inactive Life Member Frances Jazombek #257.
Our thoughts and prayers are with the Jazombek Family.

Services for Frances will be held on Wednesday, January 15th from 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM at Jacobsen's Funeral Home. There is also a Mass and Burial on Thursday, January 16th at 10:45 AM at St. Patrick's RC Church. There are no squad services scheduled at this time.

Get Well wishes are being sent to Michael Golinsky, husband of Andrea. Mike recently underwent spinal surgery. He is now at home recuperating and doing well.

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

**30 Years of Service:
Gilda "Jill" Decker #908**

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

Gilda "Jill" Decker # 908 - Thirty (30) Years of Service – I joined the Squad while working towards my Bachelor's degree in Biology and English. I joined the Squad just to get some community service on my resume in the consideration of getting into medical school.

I was working as a Bench Jeweler at the time and met fellow squad member, Eileen Burns who was one of the most instrumental people in my life.

Computers were the up and coming thing and she kindly offered to let me sit at her employment agency and learn the Microsoft Windows programs. She told me of a tour operator that was about to be bought over by American Express. I temped there and got the job and I will be forever grateful to her.

Eileen and folks like her, more than the work, have kept me here for so long. The Squad was more than I could have ever hoped for. Even now that I live in St. James. I still make the commute.

I finished up my degrees and now with the Squad but for the first five years I never got out on a rig because Friday 0700 shift had only two crew members, myself and driver Hugh O'Brien, who recently joined my present shift. It feels like old home week now. So, someone had to Dispatch.

While working at American Express, a new department had just started up and I made friends with the new department head. We made a deal that if I started typing in and translating website brochure data (we had worldwide clients) that any extra time I had available I could learn from the other knowledgeable guys in the department. So, I joined the newly formed Web Department.

I earned a Master's Degree at LIU Interactive Multimedia Arts, which included Web Development. Audio/Visual Recording, 3D Animation and Performance Art.

I offered my services to the Squad and built our first website and email blasts. We still use my old header. I joined the technology committee and researched and made recommendations for technological upgrades.

I always had a love of dogs and my job in the tourism industry afforded me a Travel Agent certification and I traveled around the world to the World Dog Shows collecting data about dogs that the United States did not have yet. I had the opportunity to speak with breeders who maintained breeds for hundreds of years and got amazing photos and data. I built the first online Dog Encyclopedia, dogsindepth.com.

In the last two years I have been doing a rebuild and seeking out a living doing odd jobs, one being pet-sitting. So, if you need great dog care in my home, look no further. I just recently became Canine CPR certified.

As for the Squad, I hope that I can get in another 30 years, when I will be 94 years old. I am inspired by another amazing member and friend, Mary Brenner! Love to ALL my Squad Family!

President Henry Waldron – No Report Posted

Acting Secretary's Report – Christine Tedone

Motion by Brian Canty and seconded by Roger Winter to approve the December 9, 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes as amended and posted.

.....**Motion Approved Unanimously**

Correspondence Received:

Thank you note received from Annette Hershkowitz

Thank you note received from Terry and Andy Ball

Thank you note received from Life Member Donna Trainor

Thank you Letter received from The Steenson Family (Read in Open Forum) If you can help at all please let me know

Treasurer's Report – Elizabeth Wood – Absent - Report Posted – Report Read by VP Eric Kramer

December 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

5500	Billing Services	\$ 12,133.47
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6000	EMS	\$ 9,355.79
6100	Vehicles	\$ 19,074.01
6200	Building	\$ 26,686.84
6300	Utilities	\$ 6,046.46
6400	Communications	\$ 3,793.71
6500	Accountant	\$
6600	Insurance	\$ 45,171.10
6700	Office	\$ 4,231.04
6800	Uniforms	\$ 1,750.50
6900	Members Inspection	\$
7000	Training	\$ 1,805.49
7100	Public Relations	\$ 4,744.53
7300	Subsistence	\$ 4,909.17
8000	Other	\$ 6,819.66
8605	Medical Costs	\$

Total \$ 188,415.40

To the Membership – From Betty Wood - Treasurer

I want to thank the membership for their vote of confidence in me when you re-elected me to the Board of Directors. I look forward to working with our new Board members, our Offices and our Day Captains. Together we can continue to build on our past successes and to help each other be better at the many and various positions that we all hold at the Squad.

Every member is an important part of our success and I hope to work with all of you to ensure continued great service to our residents.

I wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2005.

All other Treasury Information as Posted. Thank You!

Chief's Report – Dominic Heavey – Report Posted

Good Evening to All and a very happy New Year to you and your families. I am excited to be your Chief and I look forward to working with each of you. I believe we can make some good changes this year and I know that we have good ideas, we just have to take our time and work through them.

Your Captain is your first line of communication. They are the Officers that make sure you are up to date of all your certifications, names and addresses and phone number changes. They will help you in getting uniforms and make sure you are up to date in review training.

Our Officers meeting will be on the First Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. All members are welcome.

Moving forward: All these items will be mentioned at the GMM on January 13, 2025.

1 – Starting Monday, January 20th at 0700 the only uniform that is to be worn on duty is the one approved by the squad. Please make sure all you members are aware of this. There will be NO exceptions to this rule. Please see the SOP's.

2 – Finger Read adjustments must be submitted to the First Deputy Chief no later than 30 days after violation.

3 – Please make sure that you are completing e-PCRs on time. Remember to get all insurance information.

4 – Checkouts have to be done by every crew on every shift.

5 – Crews MUST clean and RE-STOCK their rigs after every call and that goes for RE-FUELING as well.

6 – If something is broken or missing the proper Officer must be notified.

7 – If something is used in the kitchen it should be cleaned and put back in its proper place. We are NOT here to clean up after each other.

8 – If any member has a complaint it must be submitted in within or it never happened.

9 – Review Training will be completed by all members, this includes Administrative members as stated in the SOP.

Action Taken:

1 – Department Transfer of Suffolk County Division of Emergency Medical Services Corps. Ambulance Service Agreement NO: 01-4617-0000-00-0023 has been signed and sent back to FRES. As of January 1st, 2025 our contract with the DOH Services Suffolk County is NOW with FRES. Copy of same notice sent to HCFAS Secretary.

2 – Recap on 2024 Chief's Dispatcher Report. Our Agency did 6,536 calls last year an increase of 376 calls. We had a total of 180/24 for the year, which is 3.93%. We did a total of 1,151 no transports. Unfounded, RMA's, Canceled, Signal 50 and No Patient Found.

3 – Accidents – Accidents occur and sometimes people/members get injured. It is important that all accidents be reported. Damage to our vehicles and other vehicles can be costly and we need to get our fleet repaired in a timely manner.

Just so you are aware 2-25-19 had an accident where the rear bumper was damaged. It cost \$1,750.00 to have this minor damage repaired, Now you and I both know that sometimes the damage is a lot more. So, I ask you as a driver to take care and slow down.

Follow-Ups:

1 – Sealing the cabinets in ALL Rigs.

2- Training with HMFD and Huntington FD

3 – Standbys

4 – Interviews

5 – Repair to Vehicles

6 – VFIS Emergency Responder Safety 01/14/2025 at 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM. Please sign up for this course.

7 – Lock box in Dispatch Office for vehicle Keys.

First Deputy Chief – Kathryn Donegan – Report Posted

Happy New Year All!

I wanted to start off by thanking the crew that assisted with providing care for my father early last week. He is home and recovering, but the help is truly appreciated. Thanks to Max Polster, Meghan Allison, Matt Murray, Paramedic Jeff Alt and Dispatcher Carolyn Mullen.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with joy, rest and quality time with your loved ones.

As we step into 2025, I want to take a moment to share my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your support, encouragement, and kind words as I begin another term as First Deputy Chief. Together, I'm confident we'll make this a fantastic and successful year for our organization!

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

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

234 Looking ahead, the spring semester kicks off at the end of the month. College students, please
235 plan ahead and submit your Educational Leave of Absence (ELOA) paperwork to your Captain
236 early. Don't forget to include your college calendar and class schedule—it's better to be
237 proactive so we can ensure everything is in order. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to
238 reach out to your Captain or me directly.

239 I will continue sending weekly shift-needs emails. These highlight the most urgent coverage
240 gaps identified by our Captains, and they're a great opportunity to pick up hours while making
241 a meaningful impact. Company 8 members, please pay special attention to these shifts!

242 There is also a list of the permanent needs on each day posted on the side board- I will also send
243 out this information to you all via email tomorrow. If you are looking for a change in shift or to
244 pick up a secondary one during the week, the areas in need are highlighted on that document.

245 Shout out to our standby committee for holding down the coverage of all standbys in 2024- you
246 are amazing and our community appreciates you!

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

250
251 Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our organization, our fellow members, and the
252 community we serve. Your hard work, passion, and kindness make a difference every single
253 day. Let's make 2025 a wonderful year!

254 Stay safe, stay positive and continue to support one another. Here's to an amazing year
255 ahead!

256
257

258 **Second Deputy Chief – Keith Rubenstein - Absent– Report Posted**

259

260 My apologies as I am sick and I will not be attending tonight's meeting.

261

262 Thank you Mark for the review training this month. Next month will be the mandatory training
263 on GCN. The Fire and EMS Expo will be coming up on January 31 until February 2nd at the
264 Nassau Coliseum.

265

266 Please reach out to me for CME letters. Also, anyone with interest in joining our QA/QI reach
267 out to me via email.

268

269 **Third Deputy Chief – Matthew Philip – Report Posted**

270 Thank you to Bobby Loych and Brian Canty for taking 20 to have tires changed. Thank you to
271 Nancy Courtemanche for helping me fill out PO's in a timely manner. I'd also like to thank
272 Christina Denker for helping write up a new ALS Checkout form and taking on a new role on the
273 ALS Supplies Committee.

274 If anyone is able to help out on any committees under the Third Deputy Chief please don't
275 hesitate and reach out to me either text or email. If anyone has ideas that they would like to see
276 with the vehicles or even around the building let me know.

277 **Repairs needed as per 1/11/25:**

278 **Unit 16:** Left side overhead camera loose, Lower rear right light electrical work and left side
279 lower center red light wiring needs to be checked, Expired Registration.

280 Mileage: 78,565.4 Miles

281 **Unit 17:** Door handle to AED and BLS bag broken from within.

282 Mileage: 22,728.8 Miles

283 **Unit 18:** Rear upper center right marker light, Left front wheel hub cover.

284 Mileage: 051278.9 Miles

285 **Unit 19:** Waiting on a part for the top right of the box to be repaired, Rubber base rub rails both
286 sides (rubber style).

287 Mileage: Miles

288 **Unit 20:** No Notes

289 Mileage: 86,247 Miles

290 **Unit 21:** Repair any damaged lower rub rails (Demers style), Right front wheel hub cover,
291 Wipers.

292 24/7

293 Mileage: 35,003.6 Miles

294 **80:** no notes

295 Mileage: 8,335 Miles

296 **81:** no notes

297 Mileage: 95,251 Miles

298 **82:** New Ipad up and running.

299 Mileage: 41,793 Miles

300 There are various issues that have been brought to my attention or I have seen and I will slowly
301 send the buses out one at a time to get them fixed. If anyone sees anything new or wants to bring
302 something up don't hesitate to reach out to my cell (631)-553-3135.

303 I am currently in the works of creating a new checkout for Ambulances, ALS and Emergency
304 Ambulance Service Vehicles (EASV) and installing new narcotic safes. I have created a new

updated ambulance checkout sheet. I just added some things to make sure we cover all Part 800 on the checkout. I also added the green O2 bag that Chief Stevens added last year. Now that we have enough supplies outside of the cabinets I added a yes or no question of whether the cabinet is sealed or unsealed at the top of all internal cabinets. This means that if the expiration date on the seal is good and the seal is intact; you won't have to check everything in the cabinet. This will be a pilot program that will start sometime in March, the resealing of cabinets will have to be based on an honor system so if you choose to break the seal and use something you must replace and reseal the cabinet with the expiration date.

Biohazard waste will be scheduled to be sent for destruction sometime in February, I will advise on a date when set. Do not use red bags for regular garbage. Do not accept sharps from the public. Hospitals and nursing homes by law must accept used sharps.

Chief Dispatcher – Patricia Tufo – Report Posted

December 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Alarms – 610

Signal 24's – 24

Signal 24% Rate – 3.93%

Signal 24's by Day of Week:

Sunday – 6 (YTD = 22)

Monday – 1 (YTD = 27)

Tuesday – 4 (YTD = 45)

Wednesday – 1 (YTD = 12)

Thursday – 6 (YTD = 31)

Friday – 3 (YTD = 18)

Saturday – 3 (YTD = 25)

Year to Date # Alarms – 6,536 (compared to 6,160 in 2023, an increase of 376 calls).

Year to Date # Signal 24.s – 180 (compared to 33 in 2023, an increase of 147 signal 24's).

Year to date signal 24% rate – 2.75% (compared to 0.53% in 2023).

Year to date Multiple calls running – 55.1% (compared to 55.0% in 2023).

Thank you to the membership for your vote of confidence and support. I will do my very best to calm the waters for a smooth sail into the New Year.

Also, I would like to thank Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos for a job well done.

As well as to Mike Barker and the Dispatch Training Committee: Nancy Courtemanche, Kathi Bonessi, Mary Sisinni and Kenney Cadet for their time, commitment and effort in educating and training our members.

Company 1 - Sunday Day Captain James Kelly – Report Posted

Firstly, I'd like to wish everybody a very happy New Year!

Thank you so very much to everybody that stepped up and lent a helping hand to company 1 in 2024. I wish I could thank all of you individually, but I'm pretty sure we'd be here for a while. Many of you are here tonight, many aren't, but you all know who you are and I appreciate every single one of you. I can't wait to spend another year together!

Sunday has always been in need of a good bit of help, but now with folks going back to school we will have a few more spots to fill. We will need:

0700: 3rd Due CL and FA's

1100: 2 DR and a CL and FA's

1500: Full Crew

1900: Crew Leader

2300: Permanent Dispatcher, DR/CL, Full Crew and FA's

I always encourage First Aiders and ACL's to join us so please feel free to come on down to ride, I always leave the door unlocked on Sundays. Have a great night.

Company 2 - Monday Day Captain Lily Poplawski – Report Posted

Hey everyone, Happy New Year! :)

We were able to finish last year with 32 signal 24s. We currently have 3 for January at the time of me writing this with an unfortunately VERY busy start to the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who came down to help the last few weeks: Liz Perro, James Kelly, Barry Winter, Shannon Gore, Eve Pollack, Dan Fischer, Ryane Como, Hank Waldron, Dany Portillo, Pam Brenner-Davis, Chelsea Keatley, Colin Weigele, Matthew Philip, David Kaufman, Natalie Amaya, Dominic Heavey, as well as all the hardworking dedicated Company 2 members and many others. Your help is truly appreciated.

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

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

1100: CL/DR

1500: CL

2300: 2 FULL CREWS & DISPATCHER

Probationary members! Please remember you need 5 meetings and 5 events as well as all RT's 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!

I would also like to give a huge thank you to everyone who came out and voted for me or showed their support. You guys truly inspire me in the work I do here and I cannot wait to continue to make impactful changes for our agency. I hope to see you all throughout 2025. I am looking forward to making this year with you all a great one :)

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 at Monday.Captain@hcfasg.org or my personal cell 631-374-5663.

Company 3 – Tuesday Day Captain Sheon Bacchus – Report Posted

Good Evening,

My name is Sheon Bacchus and I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as the Tuesday, Company 3 Day Captain.

I would like to thank all the members that came in to assist or stay an extra shift last Tuesday: Brian Canty, Bob Biersack, Bobby Loysch, Barry Winter, Liz Perro, Frank Paccione, Melissa Anastos, Daniel Fischer, Brandon Sala and Spencer Newman. If I missed anyone, I apologize!

Thanks to all of you and the Tuesday members, it was a signal 24 free day (woo hoo!). I greatly appreciate it.

This Tuesday 1/14/2025, the 1500 needs a second due driver and the 2300 needs a second due driver.

Our permanent needs are 1500: Second Due Full Crew, 1900: Dispatcher & Second due CL, 2300: Dispatcher, First Due Driver and Second due full crew.

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

F/A & ACL 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 and Given by Captain Andrew Taylor

427 Good Evening Everyone,

428 Happy New Year to all!

429 Again, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be the Wednesday Day Captain
430 for 2025. So far, the year has started off to a great start. I want to say thank you to my
431 Wednesday crews for continuing to show up on their shifts every week when able, and finding
432 coverage when not. I want to thank those who stepped up to the plate to cover those positions as
433 well. Your time and dedication are greatly appreciated! For this week Wednesday is currently in
434 need of 0700- 2nd due CL, 1100 2 CL(s) for 1st&2nd due, 2300 full 2nd due crew.

435 I would like to leave you all with this quote I once read; “Too often we underestimate the power
436 of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest accomplishment or the smallest act of
437 caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around”- Leo Buscaglia

438 Thank you all again for all that you do for HCFAS. All of your hard work and dedication doesn't
439 go unnoticed.

440

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

442

443

444 **Company 6 - Friday Day Captain Eve Pollack – Report Posted**

445

446 Hello Everyone! Happy 2025!

447

448 Thank you all for your support in the elections. Looking forward to another wonderful year
449 ahead!!! In the next few months it is my hope and plan to host a brick oven pizza night and
450 teach a CME on de-escalating strategies. I hope to see you there!

451 For this week, Two DR and a CL are needed on the 1100 shift. A CL is needed on the 1500
452 shift.

453

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

457

458 **Company 7 - Saturday Day Captain Andrew Taylor – Report Posted**

459

460 Good Evening Everyone,

461 **Happy New Year!**

462 I want to extend my gratitude to everyone who voted in December. I'm thrilled to collaborate
463 with my fellow Operational Officers and the Board of Directors to advance the mission of
464 HCFAS for the community we serve.

465 A special thanks to all members of **Company 7 and Company 8**, as well as Officer James
466 Kelly, for their dedication in making the first Saturday of the year a success. Despite the cold,
467 an impressive total of 23 calls were handled!

I'd like to give a belated Happy Birthday shout out to **Company 7 members Andrew Ganley (#1750) and Ori Baer (#1673).**

A heartfelt thank you to the following individuals who contributed to the success of Saturday's operations: **Jeff Brenner, Dana Silverstein, Alvin Espinal, Paul Bayer, Ex-Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos, Esteban Lopez, X-Captains Jackie de Bruin and Jake Levinsky, Daniel Fischer, Christy Stiles, Dany Portillo, Bob Loysch, Sunday Captain James Kelly.**

Operational Update – 1/11/2025

Regrettably, Saturday saw its first **Signal 24** at 11:40am. At that time, crews were actively managing calls involving cardiac arrest and unconscious patients. A huge thank you to Paramedic Mina and Jeffrey Brenner, our ALS providers, and the BLS crews who worked tirelessly: **Jasjeet Kaur, James Kelly, Jerry Hernandez, Bob Loysch.**

I also want to express appreciation to **Halesite Mutual Aid** for their coverage, as well as **Mr. Michael Barker** for his efforts in assembling a crew. As always, your support is invaluable. 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 2024 Points – Robert Franz

I am amazed when I review the LOSAP posted points and see members with 47 to 50 points but they only completed 6 to 9 Review Trainings – Doing more Review Training would have given them their 50 points!

The 2024 LOSAP Point listing is posted on the bulletin board and each member should review their points and report in writing any discrepancies to the LOSAP point committee. If you find any type of errors in your account, please report them to the LOSAP point committee in writing ASAP. It is recommended that each member have more than 50 points at December 31, 2024 so that any subsequent correction of posting errors (such as, activity posted to the wrong member account, duplicate activity posting etc.) will not cause you to have less than 50 points and therefore not qualify for a year of service credit for 2024.

All 2024 LOSAP forms must be completed and submitted to the LOSAP point committee by the third Saturday in January (1-18-25). All Finger Read adjustments must be submitted to your Day Captain within 30 days of the event since the verification process and system entry takes time to complete. 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. A copy of the Defined Benefit LOSAP Point System is posted on the bulletin board.

509 **NYS Income Tax Claim for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Credit for**
510 **2024 – Robert Franz**

511 You can claim the \$200 refundable credit for 2024 on the NYS Department of Taxation and
512 Finance Form IT-245. As per the instructions, you cannot claim the credit if you receive a real
513 property tax exemption that relates to your volunteer service under Real Property Tax Law. The
514 ambulance workers' credit is available to full-year NYS residents who are active volunteer
515 ambulance workers for the entire tax year for which the credit is claimed. A copy of the Form
516 IT-245 instructions is posted on the bulletin board. If you have any technical questions, consult
517 your independent tax advisor.

518 **10 % Property Tax Exemption – Robert Franz**

519 The filing deadline with the Town of Huntington (TOH) Assessor is Monday March 3, 2025
520 (since March 1, 2025 is a Saturday) for property tax year 12/01/25 to 11/30/26. The property
521 must be owned by the volunteer or the volunteer and spouse only. Members who are currently
522 receiving the 2 -year or 20-year status tax exemption will have their years status bulk-renewed
523 by the Squad by the deadline date. Current recipients who moved or sold their home prior to
524 March 1, 2025, or had other ownership changes, please drop a note with your detail information
525 in Director Bob Franz's mailbox. If you moved and purchased another home, you must fill out a
526 new application form for your new residence. Members who will be eligible for the first time
527 (achieved at least 2 years or more of service by 3/1/25 and own a home (title must transfer by
528 3/1/25). Please complete an application form and place it in Director Bob Franz's mailbox
529 before Friday February 7, 2025. Exemption Application Forms are on the Bulletin Board or were
530 distributed to you via email or USPS. A copy of your driver's license to show proof of primary
531 residency must be included with the application. The driver's license copy must be legible and
532 readable. To be eligible, the property must be owned by the volunteer or the volunteer and
533 spouse only, the property must be your prime residence and be in the Town of Huntington and
534 you must have a minimum of 2 years of active squad service by March 1, 2025. For members
535 with 20 or more years of service by March 1, 2025, the property can be located anywhere in
536 Suffolk County (Call Bob Franz at 631 421-9121 or email robo4200@hotmail.com for specific
537 details).

538 Note for members currently receiving the property tax exemption: If you do not want the Squad
539 to renew your property tax exemption on 3/1/25 because you intend to take the \$200 NYS
540 income tax credit for calendar year 2026, please put a note in Bob Franz's mailbox prior to
541 February 7, 2025.

542 Important Alert Note – not legal advice: The majority amount of the tax exemption is attributable
543 to a Squad Member's taxing jurisdiction – "the School District". Resolutions that were passed by
544 School Districts under a new Real Property Tax Law (enacted in December 2022 RPTL section
545 466-a) in December 2023 or January 2024 excluded certain volunteers because the volunteer's
546 primary residence was not located in the area served on a primary basis by the volunteer's
547 Squad. Many taxing jurisdictions wanted to extend the real property tax exemption to all EMS
548 volunteers residing within their jurisdiction even if the volunteer's primary service area was in a
549 neighboring jurisdiction. In September 2024, Governor Hochul signed 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 should not be affected by the new RPTL section 466-1 since the Squad covers both Districts.

The Suffolk Educational program for Retention in the Voluntary Emergency Service (SERVES) – Robert 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.

Suffolk County Legislation – Affordable Housing Programs – Robert Franz

I attended and spoke at the SC Legislature meeting on Tuesday, 12/16/24 in support of a Proposed Local Law Resolution 2024-1997 sponsored by Legislator Rebecca Sanin. The law

584 would improve the County's Affordable Housing Programs for volunteer firefighters and
585 Emergency Medical Services personnel.

586 The legislature decided that the proposed law needs more work and sent it back to the committee
587 with the intent that it will be reintroduced in February 2025. The Towns of Huntington and
588 Babylon recently passed resolutions for Affordable Housing for FF and EMS personnel in their
589 towns.

590 **Grants for Volunteer Ambulance Workers who are looking to Purchase a Home:**

591 It was mentioned in 2023 that there is a \$50,000 grant program for eligible volunteer ambulance
592 workers who are looking to purchase a home. Eligible applicants may receive up to \$26,000 in
593 down payment assistance and \$24,000 for repairs. Information is on the bulletin board above the
594 mail folder counter.

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

597
598 **Driver Training Committee – Jeffrey Brenner & Dominic Heavey** – Please BE Cautious,
599 Drive carefully and slow down. Accidents do happen but you must report ANY and ALL
600 Accidents and file all necessary paperwork when accidents occur.

601
602 **Fund Drive Committee – Mary Brenner & Joan Florio** – As of January 7th, 2025 the Fund
603 Drive has collected a total of \$4,434.00 donations. Total Donations for 2024 were \$82,082.24.
604 Electronic Donations for 2024 were \$10,007.30 totaling \$92,082.54 in donations.

605
606 **Pulse Committee** – All Reports and Articles are due the 25th of the month. Before you submit
607 your articles for the Pulse please use chatgpt to correct grammar, spelling and punctuation before
608 it is reviewed by the committee.

609
610 **Special Events Committee – Brian Canty** – The Annual 2025 Installation Dinner Dance is
611 scheduled for March 29, 2025.

612
613 **Stand-By Committee – Kenney Cadet, Peyton Kalb & Suzanne Philip** – A Crew is needed
614 for Commack VAC Installation Dinner. Please sign up if you are available to help out.

615
616 **In Closing:**

617
618 Has everyone fingered in?

619
620 **Thank you to those who have helped prepare tonight's dinner:**

621
622 **Social and Kitchen Committees:** A Special thanks to Lisa Mohr, Bob Biersack, Angie
623 Kalodoukas, Kevin McCann, Gregory Orr, Christy Stiles and Claire Tesoriero

624

New Business:

Membership Dues are due on January 1, 2025, if dues are not paid by that date you are in arrears.

Nancy Barker – All members must wear a proper uniform while on duty. T- Shirts still need to be distributed to the members. The paperwork seems to be vanishing. Members have been waiting for one month for their T-Shirts as they have not yet been received. The Chief and President will follow-up with this issue.

Kevin McCann – This room was left in a total mess and there was no laptop available. In the future if you use the room put it back the way it was.

Mary Winter – Inquired if the Squad can purchase bottled water for the building so that the members have water available to them. Discussions were held.

Old Business: None

Various Raffles:

Cheesecake Factory Gift Card \$25 – Tim Ebert

Home Depot Gift Card \$25 – Dany Portillo

Panera Bread Gift Card \$25 – Andrew Taylor

Target Gift Card \$25 – Sheon Bacchus

Box of Nuts – Joel Paul

Box of Nuts – Claire Tesoriero

Bottle of Red Wine – Fiona Witkowski

Bottle of White Wine – Christine Tedone

Members in Attendance: Eligible Members 46, Probationary Members 8, Total: 54

Motion made by Brian Canty and seconded by Roger Winter to adjourn the General Membership meeting at 2033 hours.

Motion Approved Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine A. Tedone

Assistant Secretary

Lehti A. Laas

Secretary

Draft Posted: January 29, 2025

670 Draft Approved: January 29, 2025