

HCFAS
2 Railroad Street
Huntington Station, New York 11746-1231

January 2010 • Volume 43 Issue 1



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The Pulse

January, 2010

Volume 43 • Issue 1



Volunteers since 1967

The "Heartbeat" of the Huntington Community First Aid Squad

2010 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: ROGER WINTER

VICE PRESIDENT: BRIAN CANTY

SECRETARY: ROBERT FRANZ

TREASURER: MARK CAPPOLA

DIRECTOR: ANDREA GOLINSKY

DIRECTOR: LEHTI LAAS

DIRECTOR: GREG ORR

DIRECTOR: JOHN PALMIERI

2010 Officers

CHIEF: (30) DOMINIC HEAVEY

FIRST DEPUTY CHIEF: (31) ANN GABRIEL

SECOND DEPUTY CHIEF: (32) JEFF BRENNER

THIRD DEPUTY CHIEF: (33) DAVID MOHR

CHIEF DISPATCHER: (35) RICH STONE

SUNDAY CAPTAIN: (51) KEITH RUBENSTEIN

MONDAY CAPTAIN: (52) TIM EBERT

TUESDAY CAPTAIN: (53) MARTHA BRENNER

WEDNESDAY CAPTAIN: (54) ALISON RUSSO

THURSDAY CAPTAIN: (55) SAMANTHA RYAN

FRIDAY CAPTAIN: (56) PAM BRENNER

SATURDAY CAPTAIN: (57) PAUL BIRSACK

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Roger Winter

Happy New Year to All, and welcome to our Board of Directors: Roger Winter, President; Brian Canty, Vice President; Treasurer Mark Cappola; Secretary Robert Franz, Chief Dominic Heavey, and Directors Andrea Golinsky, Lehti Laas, Greg Orr, and John Palmieri.

Every year in January we try to regenerate ourselves. As always, the new year starts with a flurry of activity as members, committees, operational officers, and the board of directors anticipate changes to better the squad. This year will be no different, but it will be a little more difficult due to the fact that we have budget constraints that we didn't have in the past. We must be more careful on what we spend our allocated funds on. We, as a Board of Directors, do not mind spending money, but we do like to spend it wisely. So if you have suggestions for the betterment of the squad, we have a three bid criteria to help justify the purchase of expensive services and or equipment purchases. So do your research wisely and follow the purchasing guidelines when proposing a service or equipment purchase.

Not all changes require the spending of monies. Areas that need attention are the Standard Operating Procedures, the By-Laws, Policies that govern the use of equipment, the Uniform Code and other areas. There are many suggestions to update many of these documents. We need follow through and assistance in the positive change to update these documents.

This year we will be going forward and will be using the CAD system to it fullest. It will require us to be more technically advanced as we move away from paper and work more on the computer to track our calls. Be alert to the upcoming changes. Also our electronic data base will be updated with your current information. We it will require you as members to review your records so we can update them and keep them current. This past year we found that many members forgot their expiration dates of many of their required First Aid, CPR and EMT cards. Make sure that you get enrolled in the proper refresher class so your certification will not expire.

(PRESIDENTS REPORT CONT'D)

We have the new frequency and we have up to five years to fully implement the plan that we proposed to the FCC. This would include new radios for the ambulances and first responding vehicles with accompanying portable radio, the officer portable radios, and lastly, member portable radios. It also includes plans for other sites to be constructed to enhance our overall radio communication capabilities. We are making this project a priority. In the future it will enhance our ability for interoperability communications with other departments. When the time comes for us to go digital we will be in place to make that change. All future radio purchases will have the capability to be converted to the digital format. The Boxer Court site is up and running and provides great coverage. I would like to thank Jim Mallilo for all of his hard work on this project and on the CAD project in the dispatch office. Jim also handles many of our computer issues. Give him a big thank you when you see him.

This article seems so business like. The squad is more than just business and running calls. The squad brings together a diverse group of people who wish to give something back to the community in the form of Emergency Prehospital Medical Care. There are many social interactions also that occur that makes being a member fun to come down to the squad and being on "your shift". Keep up the good work and have fun. But to quote an old time TV show "Be careful out there!"

As I said last year, my door is always open.

Good & Welfare

Congratulations to Melissa Rubino on her recent Wedding!

Get well wishes to Christine Russo. We hope you are feeling better soon.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gail Glister on the loss of her father.

Our deepest sympathies are with David Susskind on the loss of his father.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Dominic C. Heavey

January 2010
Chief Report
Dominic C. Heavey
1-631-921-0181 or dheaavey@hunterambulance.com

First I would like to thank everyone who voted for me in the elections. I look forward to serving you and our community over the next year. I would also like to thank the Officers and BOD off 2009 for all the hard work that was done during 2009.

Here are your 2010 Officers:

Chief	2-15-30	Dominic C. Heavey
1st Dep Chief	2-15-31	Anne Gabriel
2nd Dep Chief	2-15-32	Jeffery Brenner
3rd Dep Chief	2-15-33	David Mohr
Chief Dispatcher	2-15-34	Richard Stone

Day Captains:

Sunday:	2-15-51	Keith Rubenstein
Monday:	2-15-52	Tim Ebert
Tuesday:	2-15-53	Martha Brenner
Wednesday:	2-15-54	Alison Russo
Thursday:	2-15-55	Samantha Ryan
Friday:	2-15-56	Paul Biersack
Saturday:	2-15-57	Pamela Brenner Biersack

There will be a full list of e-mails and phone numbers listed in the Dispatch Office over the next few days. If you need to get in contact with your Captain, please leave a note in their mail box.

I would like to thank everyone for all the work done in getting ready for the Holiday Party and was sorry to have it postponed until Sunday 12-27-2009. Everyone that attended had a great time. Thanks to the POST Members for reaching out to the members by phone to let them know that the party had been postponed. Well done to the drivers that went out to pick up members for their shifts.

Well done to everyone that showed up for the Snow Storm on December 19th 2009. We had a total of 4 full Crews that were in the building from 9am Saturday morning and did not leave until 12 noon on Sunday morning. Job well done by the regular Saturday and Sunday crew's.

David Mohr did a great job in getting the snow moved and made sure we could get in and out of the parking lot.

*Captain Jeffery Brenner made sure that everyone was fed during the storm.
The high light of the day was the 3 hour fire stand by.*

Remember everyone to use the finger reader when you sign in and out.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL ROLL ON 2010

Chief Dom

CHIEF DISPATCHER

Richard Stone

Dear Members,

COMMUNICATION: is the process of transferring information from one entity to another by means of speaking, writing, or using a common system of signs or behavior.

As your Chief Dispatcher it is my honor to be serving again and I thank you for your support.

As 2010 begins I am anxious to complete what we began last year.

One of the first things we hope to do early in 2010 is to go paperless or nearly so.

We will also be implementing our new UHF radio frequency as soon as budget restraints allow.

I hope everyone had a very happy and health holiday season.

Happy New Year to all.

Richard Stone 2-15-35

2nd DEPUTY REPORT

Jeffrey Brenner

First to everyone who helped out in 2009, the crews of Company 7, my fellow officers and family thank you for your support and dedication to the organization. You all provided the hard work that needed to be done on Saturdays all year.

Thank you to everyone who came out and voted in the election. This year I will provide a commitment to training and education for you the member. Through training and education we will better ourselves to help provide the best care to our community.

For those who are EMT's please keep your cards current including CPR; For CME renewal you will need to have a CPR card within the last year. Any questions on your cards or CME's please see Captain P. Brenner.

Those who want to become an EMT or need a refresher speak with Sally Stayzack.

Please keep on top of your review training; January's review training is on Cold Weather Emergencies.

Let's work hard and help to train each other; CL and senior members help to encourage and education our newer members and support them, the new members are the future of our organization!

2nd Deputy Chief Jeffrey Brenner

January 2010 • Service Awards

10 years

Carmen Schlieben

Tom Lemp

15 years

Jill Decker

Eric Schmierer

30 years

Phil Schmidt

3rd DEPUTY REPORT

David Mohr

Let me begin by first thanking you, the membership, for electing me to this position. I am committed to working for you over the next year to advance the Squad. I would also like to thank our outgoing Third Deputy Chief Bobby Loysch. Bobby has faithfully and selfishly served the Squad for many years and he deserves our thanks. Bobby, I will be calling you throughout the year for your help and guidance. Also to Kathy Geary, I have known Kathy for over twenty (20) years and she is a loyal and dedicated member and I know she will be there ready, willing and able to assist and advance the Squad.

As we start a new year I would like to first get your input. I would like to know what you would like to see done with our vehicles and building. I have always found it useful to first define a problem before attempting to fix it. So, please leave me a note in my mailbox or email me at davidmohr@yahoo.com and tell me what you would like to see done and don't be shy. Even if you think "well someone else will say...." don't count on it, let me know, it will only take a moment and it will give me insight as to prioritizing the work for the year. Try to be as detailed as possible and please also include your name and how to contact you, so if I have a question, I can get in touch with you.

As I sit here finishing this month's Pulse article, after over thirty (30) hours on duty and almost thirty (30) inches of snow, once again the esprit de corps of the Squad was shown. We all worked together this weekend, from the over three (3) hours at a stubborn house fire where we had over fifteen (15) members on scene in blizzard conditions to the unfortunate DOA where we went and got family members who were snowed in, so they could all grieve together. We left our families and friends and joined our second family to ensure the safety of our community during the worst snow storm since 1996. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED OUT, I would name everyone, but my article can't be that long, lest we say a majority of our membership assisted in some way.

Finally, a request to all our Drivers if something happens to one of our vehicles, a scratch, dent, nick, or whatever, please, please, please let me know. As the tee shirt that I got when Liz (my daughter) was born says "spit happens". We use our vehicles in a manner and way that inherently increases the risk of an accident, or something else that causes damage to them, everyone understands that. My concern is that we get whatever happen fixed and fixed in a timely manner. That means I need to know about it immediately. We are enduring major budget constraints by our Town officials, contrary to the recent Newsday article. We must do more with less. Our vehicle replacement schedule has been extended, which means we must be vigilant in the maintenance of our vehicles so they last longer.

Again, Thank You for the honor of serving you as Third Deputy Chief and I look forward to the following year.

TUESDAY CAPTAIN
Martha Brenner

Well, I may be the Captain elected with the fewest votes in the history of HCFAS! And, it is a bit of a surprise to be elected without actually running. But after careful consideration, I have decided to gratefully accept the position of Day Captain. Thanks to all 9 of you who voted for me, and thanks to the two of you who orchestrated the write in campaign..rumor has it you are relatives!

I am going to assume there are a few of you who don't know me. I have been a member longer then I like to actually say out loud, 38 years! I was an operational officer once a long, long time ago. More recently I was on the Board of Directors for 4 years, 1 as treasurer and 3 as VP. There are very few committees I haven't had a try at over the years so I am pretty well versed on the intricate workings of our organization. I hope this knowledge will be helpful in moving us forward next year.

I am looking forward to a new year. We are all members of a terrific organization and I am proud to be a part of the HCFAS family!

Martha Brenner

Company 3

Well another great year has gone by, it wouldn't have been great without all of you. Thank you for having me as your Tuesday Captain for this past year, I very much enjoyed it. Thank you to everyone who has helped me and Tuesdays out this past year. Just to name a few members that came in for extra shifts this year, thank you to Ferd Neumann, Paul Kelly, Lorrie Stone, Sally Staszak, Kurt Vetter, Laurie Hoffman, Matt Valle, Tina Sholes, Brian Millken, Keith Rubenstein, Todd Atkin, Joe Frisenda and Spencer Newman.

I would also like to thank my husband, Jonathan, for dealing with my very busy schedule I've had for the past three years.

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New year!!

*Now down to help needed: 0700-1100 needs a dispatcher til March and a driver forever
 1100-1500 needs a full crew!!!
 1900-2300 needs an ALS provider*

If you can help out for any of these shifts please contact the Tuesday Captain.

*Thank you,
Casey Stone
2-15-53*

LOSAP 2009 Points – Bob Franz

The 2009 LOSAP Point listing 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 Andy Ball of the LOSAP point committee. I ask that you look at the last column titled "LOSAP TOTAL" to see the number of eligible LOSAP Points you have for 2009. You must have 50 points in this column to qualify for a year of LOSAP credit for 2009. The deadline for re-view trainings is January 15, 2010. The final list will be sent to the Town of Huntington in March for Town Board approval.

NYS Income Tax Claim for Volunteer Firefighters' & Ambulance Workers' Credit for 2009 – Bob Franz

You can claim the \$200 refundable credit for 2009 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 is March 1, 2010 for property tax year 12/01/10 to 11/30/11. Members who are currently receiving the 5 year or 20 year tax exemption will be recertified by the Squad by the deadline date. Current recipients who moved or sold their home prior to March 1, 2010, please drop a note with your detail information in Bob Franz's mail box. If you moved and purchased another home, you must fill out a new application form for your new residence.

Members who will be eligible for the first time (achieved at least 5 years or more of service by 3/1/10 and own a home (title must transfer by 3/1/10), please complete an application form and place it in Bob Franz's mailbox before Friday February 19, 2010. To be eligible, your name must be on the property deed, the property must be your prime residence and be in the Town of Huntington and you must have 5 years of active squad service by March 1, 2009.

For members with 20 or more years of service by March 1, 2010, the property can be located anywhere in Suffolk County (Call Bob Franz at 631 421-9121 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 3/1/10 because you intend to take the \$200 NYS income tax credit for calendar year 2010, please put a note in Bob Franz's mailbox prior to February 19th.

Designations of Beneficiary – Bob Franz Insurance Committee Chairperson

Please call or see Bob Franz if you wish to change your designated beneficiary(s) on your Group Life Insurance Certificate and the Squad's VFIS Accident & Sickness Policy. Eligible members under the squad's group life insurance program are generally covered for \$50,000 (lower amounts if over 69 years of age). Generally, all active members are covered under the Accident & Sickness policy while on duty; the death benefit is \$250,000.

Your beneficiary under the LOSAP program was indicated on the 2008 LOSAP benefit statement distributed to you a couple of months ago.

***Volunteer Ambulance Workers' Benefit Law (VAWBL) Policy –
Bob Franz Insurance Committee Chairperson***

Effective January 1, 2010, the Squad changed its VAWBL Policy to The State Insurance Fund who will provide the mandated coverage required under the workers' compensation law. Information will be placed on all squad vehicles in the vehicle registration and insurance card plastic case which will have the necessary data to give to a medical facility or doctor that provides medical care to an injured member. The back of members' accountability identification cards will also be updated with this revised information in the near future. If a member is injured on duty, claim forms are located in a folder after the letter "Z" in the members' mail folders file draw.

LOSAP Amendment Referendum – Bob Franz & Andrea Golinsky

Just want to say a big thank you to all the eligible members who came out on Tuesday December 8th to vote for the LOSAP Amendment Proposition. The proposition passed by a large margin 180 Yes votes and 15 No votes. Thank you to all the members who helped get the vote out via emails and telephone calls and the poll watchers who kept us informed of the vote hour by hour. Thank you also for those members who got their family members out to vote.

*It was a successful team effort.
Thank you again for everything.*

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS, CHANUKAH/HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

I would like to give my angels lots of "atta boys" and "atta girls" for their efforts in preparing the Squad building for the holiday celebrations.

These are my angels:

Nancy Eckhardt, Oscar Gomez and Jean Giacomini put up and decorated the meeting room tree and the ready room tree. Suzie Biagi and Mark Cappola helped while they were on duty until they had to respond to a call. Sal Signorelli prepared the Chanukah display and did the lighting for the manger. Richard Rudolph, Oscar Gomez and I worked on the outdoor decorations and the wreaths in the building. Last but not least, Richard Stone for lighting the Chanukah lights daily.

I hope I have not overlooked anyone else but know whatever you did was much appreciated.

To all, -- Hugs and Kisses.

Jerry Giacomini



BASICS - January 2010

New Year, New Opportunities

By Mark W. Brenner



I love the New Year. Each new year offers new hope and new opportunities for us personally and for our organization. Remember when we were kids playing a game of kickball? Occasionally, there was a dispute whether the ball was fair or foul. The solution was to call a do-over. Well, a new year is like getting a “do-over”.

I also love a good book. Right now, I am reading the newest book by one of my favorite authors: Peter Boonshaft. It's a real “page-turner”. Boonshaft's writings captivate me, some much so that I only read one chapter at a time in order to savor each like a piece of chocolate melting on my tongue.

Don't feel bad if you don't recognize the author's name. Only a super band geek would look forward to the third book by the Director of Bands from Hofstra University. Dr. Peter Loel Boonshaft is not only a terrific writer, but he is a brilliant conductor as well as an inspirational educator.

Just the other night, I read the chapter entitled “Yes, if...” and no sooner had I finished it, I had to reread it. Boonshaft believes that successful band directors use enabling language with their students. When a student asks “Can I play the first clarinet part?” rather than answering “No, not yet” we should counter with “Yes, if you can develop better technique to play over the break, Yes, if you can play in the upper register with better intonation, or, Yes, if you can play the syncopated rhythms while maintaining a steady tempo.” Each of the three “yes, if” statements provides specific suggestions to guide the clarinetist toward improvement. Each is measurable, and when all are achieved will lead to the extrinsic motivation that the student desires. Each “Yes, if...” is enabling. It clearly identifies opportunities for meaningful growth.

When a few dedicated community members were asked by the Town Supervisor in the 1960's to investigate the feasibility to begin a volunteer ambulance service, it would have been easier to say, “No, that's the job for the fire departments to fulfill.” Although I was not present, I imagine that one answer was “Yes, if we can solicit monetary donations to purchase the necessary equipment.” Another probably said “Yes, if we can find and train willing volunteers.” Still another may have responded, “Yes, if we can develop rules and regulations that would structure our organization and define how we function.” Each of these enabling steps was able to be refined, charted, and achieved. And with each new step completed, they came closer to their goal of establishing an all volunteer ambulance service.

While I was reading the chapter I began thinking of how this principle could be applied to our organization today. For our officers, when a member approaches and asks, “Hey, can I be brought up to enter the crew-leading program?” instead of say “No, you haven't been a member long enough”, perhaps answering “Yes, if you come in for your shift on-time and in uniform and help with the ambulance check-out for the next four weeks to show that you are more responsible and can lead by example more consistently” since this response would give a clearer set of expectations.

As members, we can use this enabling language when we are approached by officers. If we are asked to do an extra shift such as the 1500 – 1900, we could counter, “Yes, if I can come in at 1600 hrs.” A request for someone to chair a committee might be answered with “Yes, I'll chair it if I can share the responsibilities with someone else.”

As you can see, enabling statements help us to communicate with greater clarity by reducing ambiguity and setting clearly defined parameters. Will 2010 be a good year for our organization? Yes, if...

Happy New Year! And best wishes to our new Officers and Directors!

Welcome!



Lori Bennett #1265
Sunday 0700 x 1100

- *Resides in Huntington Station*
- *Graduated from Calhoun High School in Merrick*
- *Graduated with AS in Liberal Arts from Nassau Community College*
- *Employed as secretary for the Director of Foreign Affairs at Huntington School District*
- *Joined HCFAS to give back to the community, enjoys meeting new people and has a compassion for helping people in need*



Kathy Castillo #1276
Fri 1900x2300

- *Resides in Huntington*
- *Graduated from Harborfields High School*
- *Attended Boces for Nursing Assistant Certificate*
- *Employed as a Nursing Assistant at White Oaks Nursing Home*
- *Joined HCFAS to enhance medical knowledge and experience*
- *Future goal is to become an EMT*

Class A Uniform Committee- Andrea Golinsky

ATTENTION

Any member who is off probation and has not been fitted for a Class A Uniform.

Please put your name, membership number and a list of your measurements in the Class A mailbox and we will do our best to fit you with a uniform from our stock. If minor alterations are needed they will be done at squad expense. If there is no uniform suitable for you, you will be notified of the next vendor fitting.

Measurements required include:

Hat size

Long sleeve shirt

Men – neck plus sleeve i.e.: 15 ½ --33

Women size such as 36, 38, 40 etc.

Short Sleeve Shirt

Men—small medium large ex-large etc.

Women, 32, 34 36 etc.

Tie regular length or extra long

Belt- waist measurement

Jacket- sizes listed as 42 Reg 44 Long etc.

Pants—waist, length (outer seam measurement)

Shoes- size and width.

Gloves – small, medium, large, ex-large

To the membership, after having been elected to represent you for 2 more years on the Board of Directors, I would like to say the following:

THANK YOU!

Mark Cappola # 1087

January 2010

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1 Happy New Year! Happy Birthday! Lori Bennet	2  Happy Birthday! Maureen Umberto Reina Gomez
3	4  Happy Birthday! Arlette Stanecker	5	6  Happy Birthday! Richard Rudolph Alison Russo	7  Happy Birthday! Philip Schmidt Elizabeth Steenson	8	9
10 	11 GMM Happy Birthday! Paul Mori	12  Happy Birthday! Oscar Gomez	13  Happy Birthday! Carolyn Mullen	14	15  Happy Birthday! Jonathan Korets Emily Schaffert	16  Happy Birthday! Michele Miller Melissa Rubino Carlos Suarez
17 Recruitment Open House 2 pm	18  Happy Birthday! Thomas O'Leary	19	20  Happy Birthday! Erica Alicea Jill Decker	21  Happy Birthday! Annette Hershkowitz	22  Happy Birthday! William Billups Christine Blackwell Tina Sholes	23
24  Happy Birthday! Al Szigethy	25	26  Happy Birthday! Gabriel Rodriguens Kevin McCann Jay Merksamer	27  Happy Birthday! Susan Seibel	28  Happy Birthday! Jennifer Ladd	29  Happy Birthday! Sue Manning	30  Happy Birthday! Andrea Golinsky
31						

Happy New Year!

Children's Holiday Party



