

THE PULSE

HCFAS-
PROUDLY
VOLUNTEERING
SINCE 1967

THE HEARTBEAT OF THE HUNTINGTON COMMUNITY FIRST AID SQUAD

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President's Report- Fiona Witowski

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Seth Fischer who has been on the board for the past six years and our President since 2018. Thank you for all your hard work, I'm sure not everyone appreciates the number of hours you have devoted to the efficient running of the Squad. Thank you in advance for all the help you are going to give me in becoming familiar with the job of president and all its many responsibilities. Thank you to Brian Canty who has been a board member for the past six years and Treasurer from 2016-2020. He has also organized many holiday parties and other social events, and led EMT classes, which we hope he will continue to do.

Thank you to Bob Franz for serving as our Secretary since 2010. You have been an invaluable source of information on all the administrative aspects of the working of the Squad: insurance, bylaws and SOPs to name but a few. Bob is stepping down as Secretary but will remain on the board. Thank you to Roger Winter for taking over the job of Treasurer last year, with the help of Hedy Bluth, and thank you for agreeing to do it for another year. Welcome back to the board to Lehti Laas and ex-chief Tom Lemp. It has been my pleasure to work with all the board members this year and I have learned a great deal.

Questions? Submissions?

Email Editor
Katie Donegan at
thepulse.hcfas@gmail.com



I have to admit that taking on the role of President is more than a little daunting and I'm not ashamed to say that I will rely on all of you for help. I have many ideas about things that could be done to make HCFAS run more smoothly and efficiently, but all these things rely on every one of us playing our part. We all need to do the very best job we can whether we come in for one shift a week or five. If you have a little extra time, please consider doing an extra shift or joining a committee that interests you. I am always open to new ideas and would like to hear your opinions on how to make the Squad a better place to work. The best way to contact me is by putting a note in my mailbox or sending me an email.

President's Report- Fiona Witowski

The Squad runs as well as it does because of volunteers like you, who get up in the middle of the night go out on ambulances and answer emergency calls, who give up Christmas dinner with their family and take EMT refresher courses when they would rather watch Netflix. I appreciate all your hard work and dedication and commend you for your service to our organization

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

- John Quincy Adams

A Very Happy New Year to everyone.

Chief's Report - David Kaufman

Dear members,

Happy new year to you and your families!

Thank you to all the members who covered shifts and calls on Christmas Eve/Day and New Years Eve/Day. We recognize the significance of stepping away from your family and friends to go help someone else, and appreciate your commitment to HCFAS. We finished up 2021 by covering the vast majority of our calls as we have in the recent past. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. Let's keep it up this coming year!

Unfortunately, we need to return to a state of high alert in terms of Covid precautions. The case numbers are back up so we need to make sure we wear a mask in the building, wear an N95 respirator on calls, use PPE, social distance, and stay home if you are sick. Contact Ryane Como if you are sick or positive.

Let's also make sure we follow our normal routines and check out our ambulances and responder vehicles carefully. Should we be stopped by the State, we need to be ready.

Cheers to a happy 2022,
David

1st Deputy Chief – Katie Donegan

Happy New Year to all! I wanted to begin by thanking the membership for their tremendous support in electing me to this new position for 2022. I appreciate all of the kind words of encouragement and assistance as I transition into this role. A very special thank you goes to former first deputy chief Ryane Como for all she has already done in helping me this year! I look forward to working with you all over the next year and am always available to answer questions or help when needed. I am reachable via call or text at 631-275-3991 or via email at first.deputy@hcfas.org.

As I'm sure you are all well aware, we are experiencing another major spike in COVID numbers after the recent holiday season with the highly contagious omicron variant. Please ensure you are taking all precautions to protect yourself and your families during this time. Be vigilant in your hand washing and PPE and continue to wear masks in the building whenever you are not eating or drinking. Do not come in if you are experiencing symptoms. If you are positive or have concerns, Ryane Como has graciously agreed to continue to handle COVID related issues and can be contacted at ryanecomo@gmail.com.

We are in the first quarter of the year. Everyone needs 48 hours per quarter. Please remember to finger in and out on the same shift. If you are going to miss a shift, plan to make up the hours by coming in early and staying late or doing another shift entirely. Please review and submit any finger read adjustment forms for 2021 ASAP as Q4 letters should be going out shortly.

There are upcoming standbys in the month of February I'm looking to begin getting covered. Please let me know if you are available for any of the following.

1. 2/25- 1700-2300 & 2300-0500 at Wyandanch Wheatley Heights Ambulance Corp
2. 2/26- 1600-2300 at Greenlawn Fire Department

Additionally I am looking for members to help out with the Standby Committee and also for someone to take over the PULSE. Please email me if you are interested.

If you have any concerns, please reach out to your captain and chiefs so we can assist you in a timely manner.

Stay safe, stay healthy and be kind to one another.

- Katie

2nd Deputy Chief – Dale Bartolomeo

Happy New Year Everyone!!

This months review training is the MANDATORY HIPAA, BBP, and Sexual Harassment Training. This training needs to be completed before February 1st. There will be no exceptions!!

Please complete all monthly review training on a monthly basis.

Please remember all PCRs must be completed and faxed within four hours.

Anyone looking to take an EMT Refresher or original course there are multiple postings in the ready room.

Anyone who needs to take a CPR class please use this QR code below to register for an upcoming class.



3rd Deputy Chief – Bill Connolly

Greetings Members,

I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. As we enter our third year of COVID please know that we are well stocked on PPE. There is one piece of PPE, which has been used less than others, which are medical gowns.

According to the FDA and CDC, gowns are an example of personal protective equipment used in health care settings. They are used to protect the wearer from the spread of infection or illness if the wearer encounters potentially infectious liquid and solid material. They may also be used to help prevent the gown wearer from transferring microorganisms that could harm vulnerable patients, such as those with weakened immune systems. Gowns are one part of an overall infection-control strategy.

We have an abundant supply of gowns, so feel free to practice donning and doffing the gowns. Please protect yourself.

I wish you and your families well and prosperous throughout 2022.

Bill Connolly 2-15-33

Chief Dispatcher - Mike Capotosto

Dispatch Training: Congratulations to our newest dispatchers, Alyssa Wohl, Salvatore Esposito, Erin Gallagher, Rachel Burkert, and Jerry Hernandez!

Thank you to the dispatch training committee for getting our newest members through training so quickly!

Call Statistics:

We closed out November with a total of 511 calls, transporting a total of 421 for 82.4% transports. Not too bad.

We've had 3 24's in November, for a total of 35, putting us at 0.61% for the year so far. We have had people respond to the building as backup personnel 57 times this month. Thank you everyone for listening up.

At the time of writing we've got a few days left in the year, so end of year statistics will be published in the next release of The Pulse. Thank you all for a great year and keep up the good work, I look forward to working with you all for 2022.

Company 1 – Captain Jake Levinsky

SUNDAY

Hello everyone, and happy 2022!

I would like to thank everyone for their support and having me as your 2022 Day Captain, and let's make 2022 a great year. Some help is needed: Driver for the 0700, Driver for the 1100, and a Crewleader for the 2300.

As always please remember to Clock IN and OUT on the same shift after completing either your 4 or 8 hour shift. You can use the finger reader by dispatch and the back door to see what time you clocked in so you can now tell what time you need to clock out to receive credit for the full shift. Also don't forget to do your weekly checkouts.

Hope everyone had a good holiday season and a happy new year!

Company 3 – Captain Joe Savaglio

TUESDAY

No Report.

Company 4 – Captain Dominic Heavey

WEDNESDAY

Hellow and Happy New Year to all.

First let me start by thanking everyone for voting for me in the December Election, for the position of Day Captain, and I look forward to working with everyone in the coming Year.

By now you will know that I have picked Wednesday as my Day. I know that the President and Chief have sent out a list of phone numbers and e-mails to the membership. You can reach me at 631-742-9766 any time or e-mail me at wednesday.captain@hcfas.org.

Sincerely
Dominic C. Heavey

Company 5 – Captain Colin Weigele

THURSDAY

Hello again everyone, and Happy New Year!

I'm looking forward to getting to work alongside all my fellow members and Officers for another year.

As always, some help is still needed on Thursdays

A driver is needed on the 1100, 1500 and 2300

A crew leader is needed on the 1100 and 1500.

If anyone is able to help please let me know!

Again, thank you for all your help and amazing work.

Colin Weigele 1553

Company 6 – Captain Kathy Castillo

FRIDAY

No Report.

Company 7 – Captain Steven Benjamin

SATURDAY

Thank you to all who voted in elections December 13th and in particular Ryane Como, Fiona Witkowski and Katie Donegan who are showing me what needs to be done outside of just putting together a schedule and running a day. December 25th was my first time formally running the day and there was a festive atmosphere. My Saturday overnight (Picture below) included two day captains, two chiefs, two life members, a US Marine officer and a couple of medical professionals. That picture could be hard to look at the first time I sit in the ready room after 2300 in a nearly empty building but for now I take inspiration out of what could be.

Saturday was very active in December exceeding 20 calls each week. There are many to thank but will specifically shout out to John Stevens, Mike Jacoby, Tim Quigley and Debbie Rudilloso as riding members who regularly double shift with me.

It is typical that new members are formally introduced so belatedly I'd like to present members who began on Saturdays not too long ago that will be riding soon.

Amina Abdullah, is already an EMT and lives near HQ. Melanie Rudas Gomez is also an EMT who should soon be in the ACL program. Liam Komatsu is also an EMT who is dispatch training. Several post members have been active. Noah Ramos rides the 700, Stephen Whitcomb, will soon be riding. Caroline Ryan is an EMT and First Aider who could probably Crew Lead effectively now. Orla Roberts, the current Post captain and is more than ready to ride once she is allowed to when she turns 17 later this month. More Post members are being worked in. We have designated Suzie Biagi as the unofficial "Mom" of the early part of the day. We do a lot of training at Post meetings. These members are ready to contribute almost immediately but we could use some more Crew Leaders throughout Saturday to help. We also have some college students who are very helpful that I will bring up another month. Our 0700 shift picture also shows a great turnout. Stay safe everyone!



Notes from 2021 Secretary- Bob Franz

LOSAP 2021 Points – Bob Franz

The 2021 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 the LOSAP point committee. All review trainings had to be completed & submitted by December 31, 2021 to be eligible for LOSAP points for 2021.

NYS Income Tax Claim for Volunteer Firefighters' & Ambulance Workers' Credit for 2021 – Bob Franz

You can claim the \$200 refundable credit for 2021 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 Tuesday March 1, 2022 for property tax year 12/01/22 to 11/30/23. The property must be owned by the volunteer or the volunteer and spouse only. Members who are currently receiving the 5- year or 20-year status tax exemption will have their years status renewed by the Squad by the deadline date.

Current recipients who moved or sold their home prior to March 1, 2022, or had other ownership changes, 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 3/1/22 and own a home (title must transfer by 3/1/22), please complete an application form and place it in Bob Franz's mailbox before Friday February 4, 2022. Application Forms were put in your squad mail folder and are also posted on the bulletin board.

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 5- years of active squad service by March 1, 2022.

For members with 20 or more years of service by March 1, 2022, 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 3/1/22 because you intend to take the \$200 NYS income tax credit for calendar year 2023, please put a note in Bob Franz's mailbox prior to February 4, 2022.

Notes from 2021 Secretary- Bob Franz (cont'd)

SC Recruitment Committee – The Suffolk Educational program for Retention in the Voluntary Emergency Service (SERVES) -Bob Franz

Highlights of the SERVES program follow.

- The program is a reimbursement program with award payment made directly to the student-volunteer at the completion of each semester.
- SERVES provides student-volunteers who attend an approved school with a reimbursement based upon tuition costs at Suffolk County Community College- i.e. as of January 2022 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 \$2,735.
- 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).
- The Deadline for application and documentation submission for the Spring Semester is February 1, 2022. Applications shall be 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.
- For more information about SERVES go to www.suffolksbravest.com/pdf/currentSERVESguide.pdf.
- This is NOT an educational program; it is a retention program designed to help keep Members in the Volunteer Fire & EMS Service.

Squad Annual December 2021 Election – 2021 Secretary Bob Franz

Thank you to Chris Roulo, Don Roulo, Joanne Vogel and Brian Canty for the vote tally at the annual election. Thank you to everyone who assisted with the annual election –Annette Hershkowitz, Chris Roulo, Carolyn Mullen, James Mallilo, Andrew Taylor, Christine Tendon, Gina Angevine and Mary Jane Woznick. Congratulations to the election winners and many thanks to all that ran for an office. I look forward to working with everyone as a Director in 2022 and wish everyone a Safe, Healthy and Happy New Year and hopefully a more pandemic free 2022.

Special Election - 2021 Secretary Bob Franz

In accordance with Article X, Section 3 – Special Elections, this is to advise you that a special election will be held at the January General Membership Meeting on January 10, 2022 for the position of Monday Day Captain.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor and the voting by members present will take place at the close of nominations. Please note that the possibility could exist for an additional election at the meeting if a current office holder runs for the vacant position and creates another vacancy.

If you plan to run for office and would like one email sent to the membership, please email Secretary Lehti Laas at HCFASLehti@yahoo.com.

2022 Election Results – Board of Directors & Operational Officers -2021 Secretary Bob Franz

Annual Election December 13, 2021 – The following members were elected for 2022:

Board of Directors:

Robert Franz
Thomas Lemp
Lehti Laas
Jeffrey Daniels

Chief:

David Kaufman
1st Deputy Chief:
Kathryn Donegan
2nd Deputy Chief:
Dale Bartolomeo
3rd Deputy Chief:
William Connolly
Chief Dispatcher:
Michael Capotosto

Day Captain:

Dominic Heavey – Wednesday
Jacob Levinsky - Sunday
Colin Weigle - Thursday
Kathleen Castillo- Friday
Joseph Savaglio - Tuesday
Steven Benjamin – Saturday
Vacant – Monday *

*- There will be a special election for Monday Day Captain at the January 10, 2022 General Membership Meeting

The 2022 Corporate Officers Elected at the Board of Directors Meeting December 15, 2021:

President	Fiona Witkowski
Vice-President	Michael Como
Treasurer	Roger Winter
Secretary	Lehti Laas

Board of Directors - 2022

Fiona Witkowski – President
Michael Como – Vice President
Roger Winter – Treasurer
Lehti Laas - Secretary
Robert Franz
Jeffrey Daniels
Carol Nucci
Thomas Lemp
David Kaufman - Chief

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of former members Alyce Jenkins #383 Judy (Naliboff) Baldwin #343.

Alyce Jenkins was Thursday Captain in 1985.



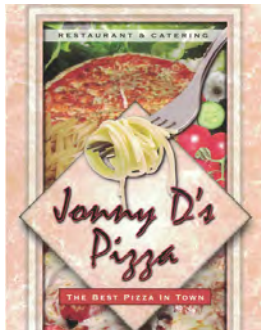
Judy (Naliboff) Baldwin (seen above) was Friday Captain in 1977 and 1978 as well as Wednesday Captain in 1979 and 1980.

photo C/O Martha Brenner

HCFAS Discounts- Dave Mohr

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

Always have and show your Squad Membership card



Jonny D's Pizza

946 New York Avenue

631-385-4444

15% Discount



15% Discount



15% Discount



10% Discount



Flowerdale by Patty

"Elegance with a personal touch"

1933 New York Avenue

10% Discount



326 West Jericho Turnpike

631-425-1196

10% Discount



of Huntington

340 West Jericho Tpke. - 631-659-3111

10% Discount

HCFAS Discounts- Dave Mohr (cont'd)

Z



9 Wall Street - 631-271-3540
15% Discount



134 Main Street, CSH
631-367-6060
50% Discount

BASICS – January 2022

What's News

By Mark Brenner

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe.

Keeping up with the times, consider these items:

1. Are you a new EMT? Congratulations! To maintain your certification, you will have to take a refresher course within three years of receiving your card, or you can enroll in the Continuing Medical Education (CME) program where you take classes throughout your certification period. If you wish to enroll, contact our CME Coordinator, Pam Brenner-Davis. She can be reached by email at pamela.brenner@gmail.com. Participants are required to complete 20 hours of core-content, 5 hours on mandatory non-core training, 20 additional hours of non-core classes, renew your CPR certification and demonstrate skills competency at a skills session. Most of our monthly review trainings are approved for non-core credit. The sooner you sign-up for the CME program, the sooner you can begin to take classes and earn hours. If you wish to learn more about the CME program you can visit the SCEMS website at suffolkremsco.com. Click on the link for CME Program on the left side of the webpage.
2. Speaking of CMEs, paramedics take note. Suffolk EMS is about to launch its complete on-line Paramedic CME Refresher! Stay-tuned.
3. As you already know, Good Samaritan Hospital is a SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) Center which operates 24/7. Thanks to Fiona Witkowski and Nicole Davis for advising me that Huntington Hospital has a SANE Nurse on-staff, Monday through Friday. If you have a patient who is the victim of a suspected sexual assault, contact Huntington Hospital before transporting the patient there to verify that the SANE nurse is available. If not, transport to Good Samaritan.
4. Speaking of Good Samaritan Hospital, Good Sam has a pediatric emergency room and is a designated Pediatric Trauma Center. But if you have a pediatric patient who is ill, keep in mind that Huntington Hospital has a pediatric Nurse Practitioner from 7 am – 9 pm. Select your destination hospital accordingly.
5. Drivers probably noticed that Good Sam was mentioned in points 3 and 4. It would be prudent for all-drivers to learn how to get to Good Sam now, before you need to transport there.
6. Drivers, while you're at it, please review the directions to get to Stony Brook, Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC), St. Catherine's of Siena, and South Shore University Hospital (formerly known as Southside Hospital). South Shore is a STEMI Center. In the first wave of the pandemic, Huntington closed its STEMI Center and many STEMI patients had to go to either St. Catherine's or South Shore University.
7. Thank you for all you continue to do. Wishing you and yours a Happy and Healthy New Year!

January 2022

HCFAS Birthdays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Andrew Taylor & Sean Harkins	Rich Rudolph & Alison Russo	Liz Steenson & Phil Schmidt	Solomon Walden
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
			Jaclyn Rittershaus	Carolyn Mullen, Steeven Jean & Rachel Bellack	Landary Rivas Argueta	Will Cohn, Emily Schaffert & Tom Panichella
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Michelle Miller	Thomas Reddy	Tom O'Leary	Danielle Raynor	Jill Decker & Erica Alicea	Annette Hershkowitz	Chris Roulo & Zachary Flurkey
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Nerissa Edwards	Bency Jean- Baptiste & Grace Kata		Kevin McCann, Evelyn Cruise, Rodriguens Gabriel & Juliet Costa	Susan Seibel		Sue Manning
30	31					
Andrea Golinsky						

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

5 Years

Jaclyn Rittershaus #1498 Solange Rich #1499 Evelyn Cruise #1501
Vanessa Cortez-Hernandez #1502 Paul Bayer #1505

45 Years

Mark Brenner #449

25 Years

Robin Smiles #937

Thank you for your years of continued service!