

Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2024 General Membership Meeting
Date: October 14, 2024

Board of Directors and Operational Officers:

President Fiona Witkowski	PRESENT	Chief William Connolly	PRESENT
Vice President Seth Fischer	PRESENT	First Deputy Chief Michael Como	ABSENT
Secretary Brian Canty	PRESENT	Second Deputy Chief Keith Rubenstein	PRESENT
Treasurer James Mallilo	PRESENT	Third Deputy Chief John Stevens	ABSENT
Robert Franz	PRESENT	Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos	ABSENT
Eric Kramer	ABSENT	Sunday Co. 1 Capt. James Kelly	PRESENT
Lehti Laas	ABSENT	Monday Co. 2 Capt. Lily Poplawski	PRESENT
Elizabeth Wood	PRESENT	Tuesday Co. 3 Capt. Brandon Eybergen	ABSENT
		Wednesday Co. 4 Capt. Dominic Heavey	PRESENT
		Thursday Co. 5 Capt. Kenney Cadet	ABSENT
		Friday Co. 6 Capt. Eve Pollack	PRESENT
		Saturday Co. 7 Capt. Matthew Philip	PRESENT

Welcome to the October GMM. Happy Indigenous Peoples' Day, also known as Columbus Day!

The meeting will come to order at 19:30

Secretary Brian Canty reported to President Fiona Witkowski that the required quorum of 50 members are present per the sign in sheet (eligible members 64).

Pledge of allegiance – led by Robert Franz. Please take a moment to remember all those who lost their lives in hurricanes Helene and Milton as well as those who are serving in our armed forces.

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:

- Jim Barkocy #578, ex-President, was recently hospitalized with Covid but is now at home recuperating.

- **LOS Award: Karen Martin 20 years (Celebration in December)**

Secretary's Report – Brian Canty

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

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

Correspondence Received: None Received

Motion by Mark Brenner seconded by Brian Canty to change the order of business to hear a reading of the SOP changes 09-2024 & 10-2024:

ALL In Favor:

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

Proposed SOP Change 09-2024

Proposal:

To increase the number of hours a Paramedic can work per week from thirty-six (36) to forty (40).

Background/Justification:

To bring the Squad more in line with other organizations in an effort to increase our Paramedic pool.

Change (additions are underlined and deletions are stricken):

Article X, Section 8 – Paid Paramedics

6. Shifts will vary in hours depending on coverage need. Eight (8) hour blocks are pre-scheduled but are adjusted based on scheduling needs, as well as paramedic flexibility. Paramedics may work no more than sixteen (16) consecutive hours with a weekly maximum of thirty-six (36) forty (40) hours for the week.

Conscious Vote: In Favor..... Unanimously

Proposed SOP Change 10-2024

Proposal:

To abolish the Quarterly Captain's Allowance, and increase the annual gift card.

Background/Justification:

In an effort to reduce the paperwork of the Captains and the Treasurer, the Quarterly Captains' Allowance will be eliminated, and the annual gift card amount will be increased.

Change (additions are underlined and deletions are stricken):

Article X, Section 1, Paragraph A(17)(f) – Quarterly Meal Allowance

Renumber g-i to f-h

f. Quarterly Meal Allowance – In recognition of the membership's services to the community, the Captains and Vice-President are authorized a \$10 per member, \$500 quarterly meal allowance for their days or personnel. Members are only entitled to one Quarterly Meal Allowance per quarter regardless of the number of shifts completed. Captains and the Vice-President must request and account for the funds, a signature from the member acknowledging

receipt of the funds, in accordance with Article X, Section A, Paragraph 5, (b) of the SOP's by the end of the calendar quarter the request was made in. Captains and the Vice President may not request a quarterly meal allowance unless they have accounted for the previous quarters allowance.

Director Franz questioned why are we moving the payment of this meal allowance from the District Funds to the Corporation Funds/
Captain Poplawski wants to make sure that members will get the equivalent of the quarterly allowance.

Conscious Vote: In Favor:..... Unanimously

Presidents Report – Fiona Witkowski –

I am very pleased to announce that Mark Brenner has been chosen by the New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association (NYSVARA) to receive the award for Educator of Excellence for 2023. The award will be presented on Saturday October 19th at the Vital Signs conference in Rochester. This is his second award as Educator of Excellence for 2023 and we are very fortunate to have him as one of our members. Thank you for all your hard work!

Every so often, a member of the community will drop off a gift at the Squad to thank crews for saving someone's life or just to celebrate a holiday. Please make sure all these gifts go to the President or Chief with a form saying who they are from; they are not to be divided among the current on duty crew. I will be making up a form on which you can gather information from the donor so that I can write them a thank you letter.

Most of you will be aware that we completed a major renovation of the first floor earlier this year. This was achieved with the aid of two State and Municipal (SAM) grants amounting to \$275,000. Senator Mario Mattera helped us obtain one of these grants and tomorrow he will be visiting the Squad at noon to take photographs with us. If you would like to join us, please let me know by the end of this meeting so that I can send a list of names to his Chief of Staff. Everyone is welcome!

Treasurer's Report – James Mallilo – Report Posted

Chiefs Report – William Connolly – Report Posted

I would like to thank all who attended the Fall Festival. We didn't have the usual turnout. I would like to thank Second Deputy Chief Keith Rubenstein, Captains James Kelly, Dominic Heavey, and Matthew Philip, Ex Chief David Kaufman and Secretary Brian Canty.

I hope you are all enjoying the start of Fall, and all our teachers and students are now used to their routines. Thank you to everyone who attended the Greenlawn Fire Department Parade. We had about 15 members in attendance.

Help is needed on all shifts, especially Tuesday 19:00-23:00. If you are available to come in for the shift, or even available by phone, or paging, please notify the Day Captain.

We have numerous standbys coming up for South Huntington, Huntington Fire Department, Bayshore Brightwaters, South Huntington Library, Huntington HS Homecoming, Walt Whitman Football games, Huntington Manor Fire Department, and other events, so please contact the Standby Chairperson, Suzanne Philip at Standbys@hcfas.org, if you are available.

First Deputy Michael Como – NO REPORT

Second Deputy Rubenstein –

Just a reminder to do your review trainings this month. The October review training is on Dispatching.

Third Deputy Stevens – NO REPORT

Chief Dispatcher Anastos – NO REPORT

Captains Reports

Company 1 - Sunday Day Captain James Kelly – Report Posted

I hope everybody is doing well and is enjoying the much-needed break from the summer heat. Just want to remind everybody that school is back in session now so I'd like to ask all crews responding to calls to be sure to exercise a little more caution on the roads as we make our way to the scene. Keep your speed within reason and if you've got to give it a little extra gas, please be vigilant.

Congrats to Steven Morrell for completing dispatch training and is now a first-aider! Steven will be starting his ACL training very soon and should be leading his own crew in no time.

Company 1 and friends have been doing a marvelous job in staffing Sunday! As always, thank you so very much to all who have offered to volunteer their time to the squad and their community on Sundays. There's always need for help so here's what's needed as of this month:

1100: Driver (intermittently)

1500: Full Crew

1900: Crew Leader

2300: Dispatcher, Driver/Crew Leader, and Full Crew

We are also in need of ALS throughout the day.

If any providers (BLS or ALS) are able to pick up an extra shift, we would be super grateful! Thank you so much for the continued support! I hope to see you guys on Sundays. Stay safe and stay awesome

Company 2 - Monday Day Captain Lily Poplawski – Report Posted

Hey everyone, Happy October :) We unfortunately struggled in September with 16 24s, and October with 2 so far for a grand total of 29 for the year as of the time I am writing this.

Thank you to everyone who came down to help the last few weeks: Kenney Cadet, James Kelly, Barry Winter, Shannon Gore, Eve Pollack, Dan Fischer, Ryane Como, Collin Garcia, Hank Waldron, Danny Portillo, 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 & FULL CREW
2300: 2 FULL CREWS

Probationary members! Please remember you need 5 meetings and 5 events as well as all RT's to come off probation.

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

Thank you for all the well wishes and support throughout the last few weeks. As some of you may know I will be going in for surgery next month and from there will not be as active while I recover. As I am not running for office next year and may not be attending another GMM due to my health, I wanted to thank you all for the countless hours of support the last 2 years of my tenure. I will be back, but taking a well needed break for now :)

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 Brandon Eybergen – Absent –Report Posted

Today I am away at work unable to attend tonight's GMM,

The Tuesday 1500 & 1900 is in desperate need of help for tomorrow and the foreseeable future, there is only 1 crew,

The following shifts also need help 1100, DR/CL

Many thanks to Matt Phillip, Daniel Fischer, Dany Portillo and Spencer Newman for their continued efforts to staff the grim tasks of overnights.

Thanks to Betty Wood, Hank Waldron, Barry Winter for their additional shifts that they cover

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

The Overnight sweatshirt program is still in continuation, as a reminder you have to do 12 overnight shifts within either Quarter 3 or Q4 to be eligible to attain one. From there you must print your hours from SCM and reach out to your company captain to forward to myself and or Matt Phillip.

Company 4 - Wednesday Day Captain Dominic Heavey – Report Posted

Let me start off by thanking my Co. 4 Members who have done a great job during September, we got through September without any 24's. Thank you.

To all the members who showed up for the Huntington Fall Festival Thank You, a special Thanks goes out to Robert (Bob) Biersack who fed us during the weekend. To the members of POST 215 great job and a very good turnout.

As a reminder to ALL Members CHRISTMAS DAY and NEW YEARS DAY falls on a Wednesday, I will be putting up a HELP Roster over the next few days. If you can help out on any shift please fill in your name. Thanking you in advance.

Now for some fun "Operation Amateur Night" the night before Thanksgiving, November 27th, 2024 between the hours of 23:00 and 03:30 (11pm and 3.30am). I am looking for members to sign up to man 4 Ambulances to be staged in the Village during these hours. This usually turns out to be a busy night and YES Food will be provided. Thanks to the Chief these hours will count as a special event for Probation members. ALL are welcome.

Remember Halloween falls on a Thursday Night and please remember to Drive Safe.

Thank You

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

Company 6 - Friday Day Captain Eve Pollack – Report Posted

Hello everyone! Happy October

I hope you are all having a great Fall so far! Thank you to all the company 6 members and beyond for keeping the whole day running smoothly and covering practically every shift! Shoutout to Dan Jian on officially becoming a CL! I also want to give a shoutout to everyone who attended the 9ish hour fire that took place September 26th-September 27th. There were 15 surrounding agencies that all came together to ensure our community was kept safe. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication! On another note, this Friday, October 18th is PAINT NIGHT- join your fellow members for a fun and creative night at 1830 right here at headquarters! Amateurs and creative types are all welcomed and this event counts as an event for a probationary member. All supplies will be provided and there will be light refreshments- I hope to see you there!

For this week, a CL and a DR are needed on the 1100 and a dispatcher is needed on the 1500!

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 with us - get to know what Company 6 is all about! Lastly, on Friday October 18th we will be having our very own paint night right here at headquarters- more details to follow- I look forward to seeing you all unleash your inner artists and creativity!

Company 7 - Saturday Day Captain Matthew Philip – - Report Posted

I'd like to start off by saying thank you to all members who came in to cover shifts or answer up for signal 3's. A special thank you to Jackie DeBruin, Jake Levinsky, Lauren Groser,, Ben Curry,

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

Congratulations to Daniel Fischer and Lauren Groser for becoming new CL's. Lauren actually isn't a Co. 7 member but due to school she been getting her hours on the sat overnight.

Delegate & Committee Reports

LOSAP 2024 Points – Bob Franz

The 2024 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 monthly review trainings have to be completed & submitted by December 31, 2024 to be eligible for LOSAP points for 2024. Please do not do more than a maximum of two review trainings in a single day.

The LOSAP point listing is strictly audited by the Town of Huntington's CPA company. If you find any type of errors in your account, please report them to the LOSAP point committee in writing.

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 January 18, 2025.

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 make any required corrections.

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 (including probationary members) 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.

-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 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
- 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.

Designation of Beneficiary – Bob Franz

Reminder to review and update your beneficiary(s) especially if you went through any life changes, such as marriages, divorce, death or birth of loved ones.

Members wishing to check their designated beneficiary(s) on their VFIS Group Term Life Insurance or on their VFIS Accident & Sickness Policy please drop a note in Director Bob Franz's mail box or the insurance committee mail box or email Bob Franz (robo4200@hotmail.com). Eligible members under the squad's group term life insurance program are generally covered for \$50,000 (lower amounts if over 69 years of age).

All active members are covered under the VFIS Accident & Sickness policy while on duty; the death benefit is \$250,000.

Your beneficiary(s) under the LOSAP program was indicated on your 2023 LOSAP benefit statement which was distributed to you in August.

NYSVARA Legislative Town Hall Meeting and Annual Meeting – Bob Franz

The annual meeting of the Association will take place at Vital Signs in Rochester, NY on Saturday evening October 19, 2024. The annual meeting will include the Memorial Service and Scholarship & Awards presentation.

Prior to the start of the Annual Meeting, there will be a Legislative Town Hall Meeting at 5:30pm head lined as "Looking Ahead to 2025: What's Happening in EMS Legislation".

NYSVARA's email was sent to our members with a zoom link for the meeting and the email is posted on the bulletin board.

TOH Amendment to Affordable Housing Code to give Priority to First Responders

The Amendment to the Town's Affordable Housing Code which will give Priority to First Responder Applicants (previous priority applicants will now be secondary) for the purchase of affordable units available anywhere in the Town of Huntington.

Priority will also be given for available affordable rental units.

The Town awards affordable housing based on income, and other eligibility criteria, through a lottery system and lists maintained by the Huntington Community Development Agency.

First Responders are Firefighters and those trained and licensed to provide emergency medical services.

Meetings:

NYSVARA District 7 – 10/15/24 at North Amityville FD

SCACA – 10/16/24 at Manorville VAC

NYSVARA District 7 - Andrea Golinsky – Tonight is the last night you can vote, please check your emails.

Medical Committee – Brian Canty – The annual physicals are Monday October 21st and Sunday November 3rd.

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

Fund Drive Committee – Mary Brenner & Joan Florio - As of October 10, 2024 the Fund Drive Committee has collected total donations in the amount of \$81,562.00.

New Business:

Andrea Golinsky – on the counter downstairs there is a box of goodies that was donated to us from the Teens at South Huntington Library as a thank you for the service that we do for the town.

Andrew Mesnick – questioned that status of the 3 on a 16 raffle.

Old Business:

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, Gregory Orr, Christy Stiles and Claire Tesoriero

Various Raffles:

1 Bottle Red Wine – Sheon Bacchus

1 Bottle White Wine – Keith Rubenstein

1 Bottle Red Wine – Betty Wood

1 Bottle White Wine – Solomon Walden

Members in Attendance: Eligible Members 64, Probationary Members 9, Total: 73

Motion made by Christine Roulo and seconded by Dominic Heavey to adjourn the General Membership meeting at 2001 hours.

.....Motion Approved Unanimously

Brian Canty

Secretary

OCTOBER 2024 General Membership Meeting

400 Draft posted: October 30, 2024
 401 Draft Approved: November 11, 2024

2024 GMM Attendance	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	Oct
President Fiona Witkowski	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
Vice President Seth Fischer	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	A	P
Secretary Brian Canty	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
Treasurer James Mallilo	P	P	P	A	P	P	S	S	P	P
Robert Franz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Eric Kramer	A	P	A	P	P	A	A	P	A	A
Lehti Laas	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	A	A
Elizabeth Wood		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P

Chief William Connolly	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
First Deputy Chief Michael Como	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	A
Second Deputy Chief Keith Rubenstein	A	P	P	P	A	A	P	A	S	P
Third Deputy Chief John Stevens	P	A	A	P	A	A	A	A	A	A
Chief Dispatcher Melissa Anastos	A	A	A	P	A	P	A	A	P	A
Sunday Co. 1 Capt. James Kelly	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Monday Co. 2 Capt. Lily Poplawski	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Tuesday Co. 3 Capt. Brandon Eybergen	A	A	A	P	A	P	A	A	A	A
Wednesday Co. 4 Capt. Dominic Heavey	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
Thursday Co. 5 Capt. Kenny Cadet								P	A	A
Friday Co. 6 Capt. Eve Pollack	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
Saturday Co. 7 Capt. Matthew Philip	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	P

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