



# THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER



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## MESSAGE FROM President Harry Barrett

Dear Readers;

As I write this, it is once again raining and icing over. It seems winter doesn't want to let go. The weather has been terrible. The MVA'S have been too numerous to count and too many structure fires due to faulty heating systems. Improvised heating systems (kerosene heaters) have been on the increase.

The Past Presidents' Dinner is now just another memorable memory. Past President Bob Wescott was given a testimonial that was so well deserved. Of course, his big sister was the highlight of the awards program. I guess wit and wisdom runs in the family.

On the weekend of February 9 & 10 I attended the FASNY Winter Games in Cortland, as Co-Chair of the committee. It was indeed a great weekend. They were 22 teams from throughout the state competing in tube races, tug-of-war, snowshoe racing and broomball. There was also a chicken BBQ and bon fire sponsored by the Cortlandville Fire Department. Central New York Vol. Firemen's Assoc. put on a party back at the hotel afterwards. All had a great time. One can go on the FASNY web site to see photos and the winners from the weekend.

On February 15 & 16 I attended FASNY'S Sectional Presidents weekend in Albany. I was delighted to have been chosen by President Wutz to chair Friday night's meeting of the Sectional Presidents and Vice Presidents. It was great to get to meet the officers from the other sections. Our agenda that was put together after a 3 hour meeting was well received by the FASNY Board on Saturday morning. All items were well discussed. It was a very informative and productive weekend to say the least. The issue of a one (1) year term versus a two (2) year for presidents and vice presidents (some are one and some are two) was discussed amongst the sectional officers. I am going to ask our by-laws committee to research this and bring a report to the April meeting to see if it is feasible for our association go to two year terms in the near future. I personally like the idea as one year is not enough time for a president to do HIS mission.

Don't forget our next meeting will be on April 13 at 1:00 pm at the Kerhonkson Firehouse located on Rt.209, half way between Napanoch (Chanville) and Kingston. Also the Legislative meetings will be:

March 8 , Montrose, Westchester Cty.

March 15, Athens, Greene Cty.

May 10, Saxton, Ulster Cty.

John Balling our Legislative Chair, will keep us updated. The Fire Police Seminar will be held at the Loch Sheldrake Firehouse on April 26. The Haz-Mat Seminar as of today, February 18, is up in the air. When Chairmen C. Mutz, Chan or I receive more info, we will pass it on.

I have been attending 2008 Convention Committee meetings, SUPSA, and as of the last meeting, it's going to be a great convention and parade. However, they would like to raise more funds, so please , when they are doing a fund raiser PLEASE help them out. Thanks.

In closing, don't forget to change your clocks (ahead) on March 9 and remember to remind friends and neighbors to do so. Also with spring coming, comes soft shoulders and grass fires. May everybody have a Happy Easter and Passover.



*Harry Barrett*



**NEWS  
FROM THE  
LADIES AUXILIARY  
OF HVVFA**

The winter is just about over. I'm sure everyone is ready to welcome the green grass and fresh flowers as they pop out of the ground! It will be here before we know it. Hope everyone survived the winter season without too much difficulty.

In January there was a gathering of the masses at the Georgian Motel in Lake George to honor Jr. Past President Robert T. Wescott Jr. The Ladies Auxiliary of Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association was very proud to make Bob an Honorary Member of our association. He has always supported the ladies, attended our functions and helped in any way he could. For that we are most appreciative! Congratulations to Bob for a job well done.

The next meeting of LAHVVFA will be held at the Kerhonkson Fire House in Kerhonkson (Ulster County) on Sunday, April 13. Directors meet at 10:30 AM with the Executive Board and County Vice Presidents meeting at 11:00 AM. Lunch will be at noon followed by the Regular Meeting at 1 PM. Why not bring a guest with you to the meeting? Remember, ladies, we are always looking for new members.

Directions to the Kerhonkson Firehouse:

**From South** - Take NYS Thruway north to Exit 18 New Paltz, turn left at light after toll plaza onto Rt.299/Main St.. Go 7.3 miles on Rt.299. Turn Right onto Rt.44/55, go 9.3 miles on Rt.44/55. Turn right onto Frances Lane/County Rt. 97, go 1/2 mile. Turn right onto Main St., go 1/10 mile, firehouse on left.

**From North** - Take NYS Thruway south to Exit 19 Kingston, after toll plaza bear right onto Rt.28 west. Turn right on US Rt.209 South - Ellenville (3rd right turn from beginning of Rt.28). Go 19.9 miles then turn left onto Frances Lane, go 1/10 mile. Turn left onto Main St., Firehouse 1/10 miles down on left.

**If lost call 845-616-9958.**

The news we hear is that Kerhonkson is ready for the Valley to descend on them come June for the HVVFA Convention. The Nevele Country Club will be the location of the convention. The following is a list of dates and times to remember:

- June 18 Registration 6-9 PM
- June 19 8:30 AM Registration.  
10 AM Convention Meeting opens  
12 - 1 PM Luncheon  
1 PM Convention Meeting reconvenes
- June 20 Past Presidents Breakfast honoring outgoing President Dianne Werner

For the rest of the convention including the Mardi Gras parade, Octoberfest, Tour of the Firehouses, and the Dress Parade, details will be in the June issue of the Hudson Valley Firefighter.

Hope to see everyone at the April meeting! Drive safe and stay healthy!

*Submitted by Diana Balling*

**HVVFA LEGISLATIVE  
SESSION AT SAXTON**

Mid-Hudson Legislative Conference sponsored by FASNY and Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association will be held on May 10, 2008 at 1 PM at the Saxton Fire House Route 32 Saugerties, NY.

Registration will begin at 12:30 PM.

Refreshment will be supplied by the Saxton Fire Company and Ladies Auxiliary.

**ROTTERDAM FIRE DISTRICT NO. 7  
SCHONOWE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY  
ELECTS OFFICERS**

The Schonowe Volunteer Fire Company recently elected their officers for 2008.

Firematic Officers are:

John Konik...Chief; Fred Herbst...First Assistant Chief; Scott Sylvester...Captain; Bob Moen... Lieutenant: Paul Sylvester...Lieutenant; Walter Pike... Captain Fire Police; Bradley Belfance...Lieutenant-Fire Police.

William Janiga was elected Fire Commissioner for a five year term.

Social Officers are:

Paul Sylvester...President; Terry Moore...Vice President; Bill Zimmer...Secretary; Bruce Iovinelli...Treasurer; George VanSchaick...Chaplain; Brad Belfance...Sergent-at-Arms; Victor Zaremba...Historian; Mike Bogusky...Director(2008); Scott Sylvester...Director(2008-2009); Victor Zaremba,, Director(2008-2009).

*Submitted by:  
Victor Zaremba, Publicity*

**SCHONOWE FIRE COMPANY  
AWARDS CEREMONY**

The Schonowe Volunteer Fire Company honored their firefighters at an awards ceremony held on January 26, 2008. David Hickey was named Fireman of the Year and was presented a plaque by Chief Mark Brucker.

Past Chief Michael Bogusky was honored with the Retired Chief's Award presented by Chief Mark Brucker.

A plaque was presented to the Schonowe Volunteer Fire Company by the Town of Rotterdam Supervisor Steven A. Tommasone for their service to the Schonowe Fire District.

Service awards were presented by Chairman of the Board George VanSchaick to Victor Zaremba and Bill Janiga for 25 years of service, and Scott Sylvester for 5 years of service.

The fire company is actively seeking new members for 2008. If you are interested in becoming a member please stop by the firehouse on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm

*Submitted by:  
Victor Zaremba, Publicity*

## Red Vest Corner

Let's start out by thanking the Poughkeepsie Exempt Firemen's Association for hosting our Fall meeting on November 4. A special thanks to Bob Boyles and the staff for a great meal. Bob encourages visitors to the Poughkeepsie area to stop in and say hello. The newly elected officers for 2008 are as follows:

President-----James Ryan  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President—Robert Boyles Jr.  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President--George Hillman  
 Treasurer-----Frank L Malloy  
 Financial Secretary—John Bootz  
 Recording Secretary ---Edward Babcock

Our new President Ryan and the membership extends a special thank you to our out going President John Gunza for successfully guiding the Red Vests for the past two years. Thanks to Jim Ryan and June Gunza we had a very successful fund raiser based on the New York daily number. President Ryan will run another one starting at the Hudson Valley Convention in June. On the subject on the June Convention please note the Red Vest steak dinner will be held at the Falls View Hotel and Country Club on Thursday June 19 at four o'clock (right next to the Nevele Convention Headquarters) Also remember Friday nights is Mardi Gras and we're looking forward to a good turnout.

Congratulations goes out to new Eagle Scout Cory Rivera . If the name sounds familiar, he is the son of Blue Vest President Chan Rivera.

Past President Nelson Durland and yours truly were honored to attend his award dinner and on behalf of the Red Vests to present him with an Eagle Scout Plaque

Congratulations goes out to five long standing members of the Red Vests : Russell Barger, Carl Doderer, James F Dennis, Anthony J Colandrea and our 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P. George Hillman. All are Fifty Year Chartered Life Members of the Winona Lake Engine Co.# 2 Town of Newburgh . Each one received a 50 Year Recognitions Award from the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association and from F.A.S.N.Y. Also four Red Vest members of the New Windsor Fire Dept. received 50 Year awards from HVVFA and FASNY they were Robert P. Welsh, John T. Babcock, John J. McDaniel and Edward C. Babcock. ( My how the time goes by.)

For those that missed the number of the room at the Home that the RED VEST has sponsored, it is Activity Room number C202.

Please take note that the Spring RED VEST meeting will be held on April 20 at the Winona Lake Engine Co. Firehouse Route 52 Town of Newburgh. Meeting will start at 1 PM.

Edward C. Babcock  
 Recording Secretary

## President Slashes First Responder Funding In 2009 Budget Request

On February 4, the President announced his FY 2009 budget request for funding for the federal government. The President's budget slashes funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's State and Local Programs account by more than \$1 billion, including a \$260 million cut for the FIRE Grant program, elimination of the SAFER grant program, and a six percent reduction in funding for the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

"The President's budget is an abrupt and dramatic reduction of federal support for our nation's firefighters and EMS personnel," said National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "The safety of first responders and the communities they serve will suffer if the funding levels proposed by the President are enacted."

FIRE and SAFER provide funding on a competitive basis directly to fire departments to bring them up to a baseline level of readiness. FIRE grants provide funding to purchase apparatus, equipment and training while SAFER grants pay for hiring and recruitment and retention of volunteers. The President is requesting \$300 million for FIRE and nothing for SAFER. FIRE and SAFER are each authorized at approximately \$1 billion and receive applications requesting more than twice this amount every year. The NVFC supports full funding for FIRE and SAFER.

The mission of USFA is to reduce life and economic losses due to fire and related emergencies by providing training and coordination and performing research. The long-term health of USFA and its National Fire Academy are critical to the fire service. The President's request of \$41 million for USFA is a reduction of \$2.3 million and more than \$25 million less than authorized by Congress. Additionally, the President proposes to fund USFA in a manner that would allow FEMA to transfer funds between USFA and other accounts without notifying Congress. The NVFC supports full funding for USFA and opposes allowing the administration to reprogram USFA funding for other purposes.

The President's funding request includes \$15 million for the Citizen Corps program, which supports Fire Corps, Medical Reserve Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers In Police Service and Community Emergency Response Teams. Fire Corps is a program administered by the NVFC that is designed to recruit citizens to volunteer for their fire/EMS departments in a non-operational capacity.

More information about the President's budget request can be found on the Office of Management and Budget's web site. The budget request is just the first step in the process of making funds available for federal activities and programs. Ultimately, Congress will determine how to appropriate federal funding and the NVFC will work closely with our allies in the House and Senate, as we do every year, to ensure that programs providing assistance to the volunteer fire service receive adequate funding.

## The Hudson Valley Firefighter

Published six times a year (with exceptions) by the publications committee of the

Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association in the interest of the volunteer fire service throughout the Hudson Valley.

All communications to do with news articles and issue content, **other than address changes**, should be mailed to the Editor at  
1041 Blue Mountain Road, Saugerties, NY 12477

fax to 1-208-246-3911

Home--845-246-7805

Or email me at [john@bmf.net](mailto:john@bmf.net)

**Paul M. Fisher—Founding Editor—Hudson Valley Fireman**

John J Balling Editor—Hudson Valley Firefighter

### ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Harry Barrett President, Thomas McKinney 1st Vice President, Donald Farrell 2nd Vice President, Robert J. Creifelds Recording Secretary, George Hill Financial Secretary, James Ryan Treasurer, Robert Wescott Sr. Past President

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Committee Members:

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John Mulligan,

All County Vice Presidents

<http://www.hvffa.org>

### ADVERTISING RATES (per issue)

Business Card \$25—Quarter Page \$40—Half Page \$65

Full Page \$125

5% discount for a year's advertising.

**Memorial / Sponsor Page Donations \$100**

### DEADLINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

June 20 for August issue (issue #1)

August 20 for October (issue #2)

October 20 for December (issue #3)

December 20 for February (issue #4)

February 20 for April (issue #5)

**April 20 for June-Convention Issue (issue #6)**

For all news items - ads - and photos

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### ALL HUDSON VALLEY FIREMEN OF THE YEAR-2008

Applications go to

Chairman Douglas Mann

103 North Liberty Dr. Stony Point NY 10980

Applications must be received by February 15, 2009.

#### ALL HUDSON VALLEY FIRE POLICEMAN OF THE YEAR-2008

Applications go to Chairman Robert Ruston

8 Arrow Head Court, Newburgh NY 12550

& must be received by March 1, 2009

## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

Dear Readers:

After almost three and one half years, the "War Department" finally said "It's your paper, YOU DO IT!!!". Well, this is the results. It may be a little sloppy and loose, but it is a game attempt at a try.

**Thank God Past President Robert T. Wescott, Sr. had his testimonial dinner in Lake George this past January. I got to fill two pages with pictures. Pictures take space, they fill space, and in case you haven't noticed this is the third consecutive issue that had double pages of pictures. The reason I guess is we've gotten a little slack about sending info for publication. Many fire companies and departments are having breakfasts, dinners, and banquets. We all have annual election of officers including county associations. How about training seminars that are open to all fire personnel? Why not advertise these events in this newsletter. That is one of its purposes.**

Now back to some levity. Anyone who attended the 2005 FASNY Convention in Lake Placid, NY, should remember (now) Past President Robert T. Wescott Sr's. sister keeping the audience in stitches. Well it seems that she retired from her position as Town Supervisor and is now doing Stand-up Comedy. Ms. Shirley Seney had the audience rolling on the floor at Robert's Dinner. She HAS FOUND A NEW PROFESSION. Once again Ms. Seney outdid herself, she even kept looking back to her "Baby Brother" for approval to "keep going", which she did. I will never get a FAX again without thinking of Bob's sister. If you want to find out the joke about faxes, just invite his sister to your next banquet as a speaker/entertainer. You won't go wrong. Contact Bob (her Business Agent) for information.

A great time was had by all in attendance.

*John Balling,  
Editor*

### ADVERTISING RATES

If any one is interested or knows someone that might be interested in placing an ad this paper, please contact this editor at : [editor@hvffa.org](mailto:editor@hvffa.org)

The rates per issue are as follows:  
(per issue)

Business Card \$25—Quarter Page \$40—Half Page \$65

Full Page \$125

5% discount for a year's advertising

Memorial / Sponsor Page Donations \$100

## LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

NYS Department of Taxation and Finance has issued Form IT-245 in order to claim a \$200 (or \$400) New York State 2007 income tax credit for service with a Volunteer Ambulance Corp. or Volunteer Fire Department.

The form is available to download from:

<http://www.tax.state.ny.us/pdf/2007/fillin/inc/>

## HOME TRUSTEES ARE LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE

As the Trustees go through the boxes and boxes of things that were salvaged from the old home, we are trying to find the most appropriate way of disposing of these items. We have separated all the old brass plates that were on the doors of the rooms in the old home.

I have pulled out plates for the organizations within the Hudson Valley and I am looking for help in finding contact information for the following organizations:

Delmar Ladies Auxiliary;  
 Albany County Fireman's Association;  
 The Town of Newton (not even sure where this is);  
 Menands Men's and Ladies' Associations;  
 Mount Vernon;  
 Kingston;  
 Newburg;  
 Mount Vernon;  
 Mechanicville;  
 Tannersville;  
 Orange County;  
 Rockland County Fireman's Association;  
 Rhinecliff;  
 Hastings on Hudson;  
 New Rochelle;  
 Exempts Association of Schenectady County;  
 Pelham Fire Department.

If you know of someone or have contact information for any of these organizations or know someone that may be interested in these, please get back to any of the following: John Farrell, Paul O'Brien or myself.

*Submitted by:  
 Tom McKinney,  
 Firemen's Home Trustee*

## **WOODSTOCK FIRE DEPARTMENT 50 YEAR AWARDS DINNER 2007**

On October 20, 2007, Woodstock Fire Department held its annual awards banquet to honor long time service personnel. Certificates and plaques of congratulations were received from FASNY, HVVFA, NYSAFD, OFPC, the Ulster County Legislature, and the Woodstock Fire Department.

Firefighters receiving 50 year awards were: William Harder, Duncan Wilson, and Herman R. Carl; also receiving awards for 50 years of service were: Wittenburg Company No. 2, Lake Hill Company No.3, and Zena Company No. 4.

Awards were presented by Woodstock Fire Chief Michael Densen for Woodstock Fire Dept., Legislators Brian Shapiro and Donald Gregorius of UC Legislature, Michael Cesare for FASNY and HVVFA, William Mehan for OFPC, and William Dunn for NYSAFD.

*Submitted by Duncan Wilson*

## H.W. Roger's Hose Co. #2 Honors 50 Year Members

H.W. Roger's Hose Co. #2 from the City of Hudson held its Annual Old Timers Night party on Saturday, November 7 at the Central Station on 7th Street. There were about fifty old time members in attendance. A turkey and ham dinner was prepared and served by Dan Hickey, Jr and his committee.

The total years of service for those in attendance was 1,202 years. Five members received their fifty years of service award from FASNY, OFPC and the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. Presenting the awards were John P. Farrell Jr. from FASNY, HVVFA President Harry Barrett and OFPC was James Moore.

Fifty year members receiving awards were: James A Coons, Lewis Mueller, Bernard Ronzoni, Bernard Turk and George W. Harp.

A 25 years of service award was presented to John W. Coons Jr.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL**

*Photo and article submitted by George Harp*



From L-R: John P. Farrell Jr., George Harp, James A. Coons, Bernard Turk, Lewis Mueller, Bernard Ronzoni, and Harry Barrett



**MESSAGE FROM**  
**JR. PAST PRESIDENT**  
**ROBERT T. WESCOTT, Sr.**

Hi Everyone,

Well, my term at your President of the great Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association has come to an end. I want to thank all who attended my Past President's Dinner to make it an even more enjoyable evening.

As I've said before, I've met so many great people and made so many friends as I traveled up and down the valley. I hope to continue seeing many of you, as I will still be attending meetings. Thank you County associations for your invitations to your annual banquets. I would again like to thank Saugerties Exempt for making me an Honorary Life Member. It is indeed an honor. Thank you FASNY for your appointment to Youth In The Fire Service Committee. I will give it my all.

Finally, I thank the committees, officers and members of this great Hudson Valley Association for making this the best sectional in the State of New York. I thank you for all your support and friendship.

Sincerely,  
Robert Wescott, Sr.  
Past President, HVVFA







**PUTNAM COUNTY  
VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 31	Meeting at Putnam Lake FD 8PM
April 30	Brewster FD fire prevention at Baskin Robbins
May 4	Putnam County Day at the Fireman's Home in Hudson
May 10	Putnam County VFA Installation Dinner at Mahopac FD
July 10	Mahopac FD Parade
July 23	Brewster FD Parade
August 1	Patterson FD Parade
August 2- 3	Putnam County Annual Explorers weekend at the training center
August 8	Lake Carmel FD Parade

*Submitted by Jeff Bergstrom*

**NYS Fire Police Change Convention Site**

The Volunteer Fire Police Association of the State of NY has changed its 2008 convention to the Comfort Inn in North Syracuse. It was originally planned to be in South Glens Falls said their announcement.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Convention is Thursday, May 15 thru Sunday May 18 hosted by Area 4 volunteer fire police and Onondaga County. Chairman for the North Syracuse sessions is Jeff Martin at 315-468-3961

The VFPASNY was organized by the late Charles F Draudt, Ex-Chief of Valley Cottage, and Suffern attorney Jerome M Kornfeld, Esq. Mr. Draudt was the first president of the association. He traveled all over being a milk-man who delivered dairy products to many homes while enjoying his cigar. Draudt died Jan 20, 1973, Inauguration Day, as he was a leader in Rockland's GOP and a devoted church member.

*Courtesy of the Rockland County Trumpet*

**TEAR OFF HVVFA APPLICATION  
AND  
BRING A FRIEND TO JOIN AT THE APRIL MEETING IN KERHONSON!**



**Application for Membership  
Hudson Valley  
Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.**

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Dept. or Co. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Hereby makes an application for membership in the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association. Organization dues are \$ 10.00 and individual dues are \$8.00 per year.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature of Presiding Officer or Secretary of Organization  
Or signature of an Individual Member and HVVFA Member]

Make checks payable to Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, Inc.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Any volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department, association of volunteer or exempt volunteer firemen or any active or exempt volunteer fireman who is serving or has served in any such organization the territory in which the Hudson Valley Firemen's Association is authorized to conduct business. Each member organization annually chooses one delegate to represent it at the convention of the Association. Delegates so chosen may continue as individual members by payment of annual dues of \$8.00. Send application with remittance, to the Financial Secretary of the Association, at address shown below.

George H. Hill  
Financial Secretary/  
Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Assn.  
854 Berkshire Rd.  
Wingdale, NY 12594-1205



## The Financial Secretary Seeks Your Help!

**If you know the correct mailing address for any of the following members,  
would you please contact:**

**George H. Hill  
HVVFA Fin. Sec.  
854 Berkshire Road  
Wingdale, NY 12594-1205  
(845) 832-7148  
bluevests@optonline.net**

Thomas Caterino	2 Croton Dam Road	Ossining
John R. Morabito	P.O. Box 822	Sleepy Hollow
Nick Marafino	22 Drew Avenue	Highland Falls
Barry Blake	RD 3, Box 195	Middletown
Edward W. Palso III	65 Division Street	Ballston Spa
Joseph Fitzpatrick Jr.	Nelson Avenue	Stillwater
Edward T. Ryan	48 Clinton Street	Albany
Gordon Speck	708 Seventh Street	Watervliet
Jonathan Dees	35 Maple Avenue	Catskill
Donald Schermerhorn	4 Grace Court	Catskill
Chad & Craig Turcyn	P.O. Box 56	Catskill
Joseph P. Wizneski	P.O. Box 85	Glenford
Brenden Conklin	93 Friedlander Drive	Kerhonkson
Roy Althouse	P.O. Box 21	Napanoch
William L. Beesimer	P.O. Box 1009	Napanoch
Robert Jones	P.O. Box 190	Napanoch
Daniel Miller	24 High Street	Napanoch
Tasha Nordman	88 Holly Road	Napanoch
Thomas Slater	16 McBride Street	Napanoch
Lionel S. Frank	2 Deerwood Drive, RD 3	Hopewell Junction
Ralph M. Lauber Sr.	26 Chapel Drive	Newburgh
Scott Annacone	224 Old Reservoir Road	Wallkill
Darlene P. Mattice	P.O. Box 85	Prattsville
Loretta M. Robison	680 Zena Road	Woodstock
Grover Flint	203 Burt Road	Gansevoort
Donald Bermel	P.O. Box 690114	Vero Beach
Leo E. Foster	339 Arbor Drive	Columbia
W.L. Hines Jr.	836 Col. T. Heyward Road	Bluffton

### THE BLUE VEST REPORT

The Royal Order of the Blue Vests

The Lake George Volunteer Fire Company in the Village of Lake George in Warren County hosted the Royal Order of the Blue Vests meeting on January 20, 2008. The registration started at 11:00 AM with many members arriving earlier. President Rivera and the Board of Directors decided that due to the cold temperature, the long travel time home for many of the Blue Vests, and the pending football games, that the Business meeting will start at noontime.

President Rivera opened the business meeting at noontime. The Invocation was given by Chaplain, Frederick A. Van Loan (Athens Volunteer Fire Department, Greene County). Lieutenant Steve Drino of the Lake George Volunteer Fire Company welcomed all in attendance and invited the membership to partake of the refreshments after the conclusion of the meeting. A motion was made to dedicate this meeting in the memory of Christian Joseph Becker. Chris was the Corresponding Secretary for many years, the Editor of the Blue Vests Report, and his leadership & guidance will be missed. The Committee reports included the Royal Order of the Blue Vests Annual Christmas Home Day Program (Dec. 15), the March meeting that will be hosted by the Brewster Fire Department (March 16), and the Annual Steak Roast outing (June 19). President Rivera thanked the Committees for their reports and especially Jim Coons, George Harp, and George Hill for their many years serving on the Christmas Home Day. Fin.Sec./Treas. George H. Hill, reminded everyone that he has started collecting the 2008 Annual Dues. Please pay your dues promptly. An application was read for one new prospective member. The new member is: Cory Roy Rivera of Napanoch Fire Company, Ulster County.

Under New Business, the new kid on the block Thomas J. McKinney declined in favor of Mr. John Farrell. Mr. John Farrell gave a brief report on the Firemen's Home and thanked the Royal Order of the Blue Vests for their continued support. Mr. Farrell mentioned that the next Youth weekend for Explorer's is scheduled for August 8 thru August 10 at the Firemen's Home in Hudson. Present Harry (aka Road Kill) Barrett gave a brief report on the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association scheduled meetings and events. HVVFA Junior Past President, Mr. Robert T. Wescott Jr., thanked the Royal Order of the Blue Vests for their attendance at his Past Presidents dinner and for their donation to the American Museum of Firefighting.

President Rivera then called for the drawing of the winning 50/50 ticket. The winning (and very lucky) member this meeting was Albany County Director Kathie Wood. As always, there were a lot of "Boos & Hisses" from all of the unlucky ticket buyers. President Rivera reminded the membership that the March meeting is for the nomination of the new Chair Officers. Fin.Sec. /Treas. George H. Hill reminded

### New Fire Safe Website by Liberty Mutual

Liberty Mutual Insurance Co has produced a new Fire Safety Website [www.befiresafe.com](http://www.befiresafe.com) "Where's the Fire?" An Academy Award winning actress Marcia Gay Hayler narrates and appears in the video on this new website. She alerts viewers to prevent fire deaths and not to leave lit candles alone or near combustibles.

The National Fire Protection Assoc reported 150 deaths, 1270 injuries and 539 million dollars lost property in 2005 in the USA, with an estimated 15,600 home fires started by candles. The video was filmed at Disney World in Florida. It urges parents to talk to their young (by age 5) children about fires and how quickly fires spread.

Thanks Liberty Mutual!

*Courtesy of Rockland County Trumpet*

### BREAKFAST OUT!



On the last Sunday of every month (except July & August) you could enjoy "Breakfast Out" hosted by the Buchanan Engine Co #1 from 8 AM to 1 PM at Buchanan firehouse, 3159 Albany Post Road in Buchanan.

Donation: Adults \$5.00, Children under 10 just \$3.00. Choices include French Toast, Pancakes, Any Style Eggs, Bacon Sausage, Toast, Orange Juice, Tea & Coffee.

They have a \$7.00 Breakfast Special with 2 eggs, 1 pancake, 1 french toast and bacon or sausage says Linda and Dave Bender.

Eat Hearty at Buchanan's Volunteers.



*Article courtesy of the Rockland County Trumpet*

the membership that we do not have a host for the Annual Picnic. President Rivera presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Lake George Volunteer Fire Company. Lieutenant Steve Drino accepted on behalf of the Lake George Volunteer Fire Company.

Refreshments were available before and after the meeting. Everyone was welcome and the refreshments were delicious. A special Thank You goes to the members of the Lake George Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the January meeting, for their wonderful hospitality, and for the great refreshments.

*Submitted by: Mike Cesare.*

DATES WE HOPE TO SEE YOUAPRIL

- 5 Hudson Valley VFA Haz-Mat Seminar  
Putnam Cty Training Center—8 AM
- 6 Westchester County VFA Quarterly Mtg  
Riverside Hose Company No. 4  
Tarrytown—1:30 PM
- 8 Sullivan County VFA Bi-Monthly Mtg  
Loch Sheldrake Fire Company No. 1  
Memorial Service — 7:30 PM
- 9 Columbia County VFA Quarterly Mtg  
Chatham Fire Department – Chatham  
8:00 PM
- 11 Rockland County VFA Monthly Meeting  
Blauvelt Volunteer Fire Co. Blauvelt  
8:00 PM
- 12 -13 FASNY Spring Meeting  
Holiday Inn Turf – Albany County
- 13 Hudson Valley VFA Spring Meeting  
Kerhonkson Fire Company  
Kerhonkson-Ulster County—1:00 PM
- 15 Dutchess County VFA Quarterly Mtg  
8:00 PM  
Ulster County VFA Monthly Meeting  
Saxton Fire Department—8 PM
- 20 Royal Order of the Red Vests Business  
Mtg — Winona Lake – Orange County  
1:00 PM
- 26 HVVFA Fire Police Seminar  
Loch Sheldrake Fire Company No. 1 –  
Sullivan County—8 AM

MAY

- 1 Greene County VFA Quarterly Meeting  
Hensonville Hose Company—8 PM
- 9 Rockland County VFA Monthly Meeting  
Alert Hook Ladder & Engine Company  
No. 1 – Congers — 8:00 PM
- 10 HVVFA & FASNY Legislative Seminar  
Saxton Fire Company—Ulster County  
12:30 PM  
Putnam County VFA Annual Meeting  
Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department  
7:00 PM
- 14 Saratoga County VFA Quarterly Meeting  
8:00 PM
- 20 Ulster County VFA Monthly Meeting  
Bloomington Fire Company—8 PM
- 27 Orange County VFA Bi-Monthly M tg  
Trout Brook Engine & Hose Company  
8:00 PM

JUNE

- 10 Sullivan County VFA Bi-Monthly Mtg  
Lumberland Fire Department Annual Mtg
- 11 Albany County VFA Quarterly Meeting  
8:00 PM
- 13 Rockland County VFA Monthly Mtg  
Empire Hose Company No. 1 – Piermont  
8:00 PM
- 17 Ulster County VFA Monthly Meeting  
Walkill Hook & Ladder Company  
8:00 PM
- 18 Hudson Valley VFA Pre-Convention Mtg  
Nevele Grande Resort  
Ellenville – Ulster County—1 PM  
Hudson Valley VFA Past Presidents Dinner  
White Wolf Restaurant – Napanoch
- 19- 20 Hudson Valley VFA 119<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Convention—Nevele Grande Resort – Ellenville
- 19 Royal Order of the Blue Vests Steak Roast  
Ellenville Elks – Napanoch—4:00 PM  
Royal Order of the Red Vests Dinner—  
Fallsview Hotel and Country Club—4 PM
- 28 Royal Order of the Blue Vests Home Day  
Program Firemen's Home— Hudson
- 30 Putnam County VFA Bi-Monthly Mtg  
Garrison Volunteer Fire Company  
8:00 PM

JULY

- 6 Westchester County VFA Quarterly Mtg  
South Salem Fire Department — 1:30 PM
- 11 Rockland County VFA Monthly Meeting  
Hillcrest Fire Company No. 1— 8:00 PM
- 25 -26 Columbia County VFA Annual Convention  
Chatham Fire Department
- 25 Ulster County VFA Annual Convention  
Saugerties Fire Department—8 PM
- 29 Orange County VFA Bi-Monthly Meeting  
Lakeside Fire & Rescue Company  
Monroe — 8:00 PM

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Submitted by Mike Cesare. Locations of various meetings not available at  
press time. If you have information, please email to cidmazor32@aol.com.  
Thanks for your help!



**REPORT FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY****100% MEMBERSHIP IN HUDSON VALLEY 2008**

Brewster Fire Department	Catskill Fire Company	Highland Falls Fire Department
Kerhonkson fire Company	Lake George Fire Department	Napanoch Fire Company
South Glens Falls Fire Company	South Queensbury Volunteer Fire Co.	Wallkill Hook & Ladder & Hose Co.

**The Association welcomes the following new members:****Brewster Fire Dept.-** George Braia, Kate Frische, Matt Frohman, Albert Jacobs, Irvin Raboy, Mark Sfarra**Catskill Fire Co.-** Thomas Martin, Jay Penniston, Barry Sheil III, Frank Sutter, Chad Turczyn, Thomas Velasquez, Jonathon Watson**Highland Falls Fire Dept.-** Hector Allemant, Christopher Butler, Jason Carpenter, Andrew Heykoop, Christopher Hooper, Barbara Murphy, Jason Stoppel**Kerhonkson Fire Co.-** Joshua Gibson, Michael Nigro, Tanya Williams**Lake George Fire Dept.-** George Bristol, Chad DeZallia**Napanoch Fire Co.-** William Beesimer, John McCabe, Tara McCarthy, Daniel Miller, Tasha Nordman, Cory Roy Rivera**South Glens Falls Fire Co.-** Jordan Alden, Joseph Bovey, Chad Flint, Grover Flint, Gordon Hadsell, Brian Huntley, Adam Jacobie, Tony Klick, Robert Leclair, Tiffany Leclair, Gregory Ryan, Sara Salvato, Nicholas Trumble, Alan Wood**South Queensbury Vol. Fire Co.-** Jared Brunelle, Pam Hilliard, Jason Lylyk, Joel Patten, Orville Van Hoesen, Joe Zanta**Wallkill H&L&Hose Co.-** William Booth, Edward Mihner Jr., Eric Orr, Michael Rydell**West Athens-Limestreet Fire Co.-** James Murphy**100 % Membership in H.V.V.F.A.:**

If a Fire Company or Department joins the Hudson Valley 100% they pay an annual dues of \$6.00 per member instead of the usual \$8.00 per member and the Company or Department Dues is waived by the Association. If any Company or Department is interested in 100% membership just send me a copy of your roster in alphabetical order with addresses. I will check it against my records for any Life Members you might have (they are exempt from dues) and I will get back to you as to how much it will cost your Company or Department. THANK YOU.

**ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** If you chair a committee which generates revenue for or expenses to the Association, you are required to submit a Budget Proposal to the Budget and Finance Committee by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for the following year. Failure to do so will result in no funds being allotted for your committee. It has not been strictly enforced in the past but it is going to be in the future. **THEREFORE:** Any committee that does not submit a Budget Proposal to the Budget and Finance Committee by May 1, 2008 will not receive any funding for the 2008-2009 year. Budget Proposals can be sent to:

Michael G. Karashay – Chair  
 Budget & Finance Committee  
 21 Division Street  
 Saugerties, NY 12477  
 (845) 246-8395  
 MKARASHAY@HVC.RR.COM

George H. Hill  
 HVVFA Fin. Sec.  
 854 Berkshire Road  
 Wingdale, NY 12594-1205  
 (845) 832-7148  
[bluevests@optonline.net](mailto:bluevests@optonline.net)

**THE HUDSON VALLEY FIREFIGHTER**

EDITOR: 1041 Blue Mountain Road Saugerties, NY 12477

**MEMBERSHIP:** George Hill  
 854 Berkshire Rd. Wingdale, NY 12594

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