

# ALBANY COUNTY REPORT

DECEMBER 2022

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## DELMAR FIRE DEPT TO HOST DECEMBER QUARTERLY MEETING

The Delmar Fire Dept will host the next meeting of the Association on December 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30 PM. President Burt Frederick urges all members to try to attend and take an active part in the Association. The meeting will be held at the Delmar Fire Station located on Adams Street in Delmar

## THREE HONORED AT ANNUAL DINNER WITH FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Chief William "Bill" Vinson of Knox, Clark Thomas of the Voorheesville Fire Dept and Lt. Steve Wright were all presented with this years Walter Bill" Eck Firefighter of the year awards at the Dinner in Elsmere. Steve Wright who passed away earlier in the year award was presented to his Family. Chief Vinson and Quartermaster Thomas received their awards. There are pictures of each on Page Four.

## SLINGERLANDS FIRE DEPT WINS BEST OVERALL AT THIS YEAR'S MUSTER

The Slingerlands Fire Dept won the Walter W. Eck Sr Memorial Traveling Trophy at this year's ACVFA Muster hosted by the Midway Fire Dept on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Slingerlands also won trophies for best appearing Men's Color Guard, Best appearing Pumper and Best appearing Antique. Midway won the award for best appearing Ladder and Voorheesville won the award for best appearing Utility Vehicle. Also taking part was the Guilderland Center Fire Dept. The winners received their trophies at the Annual Dinner and meeting at Elsmere. The Association wishes to Thank all that took part and Midway for hosting the Muster.

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## SEASONS GREETINGS

THE OFFICERS OF THE ALBANY COUNTY VFA AND LADIES AUXILIARY WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, ALL FIREFIGHTERS AND THEIR FAMILIES A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON  
HOST NEEDED FOR ANNUAL DINNER

The Association is looking for a Host for the Annual Dinner and Quarterly meeting in September 2023. If interested or for more information contact Association Secretary John Webb at 518-256-7359 or by E mail atjlwsec@gmail.com or any of the Officers listed on Page 5.

## HOLIDAY CARDS FOR HOME MEMBERS

Now that the Holiday Season is upon us why not send a Holiday Card to our Volunteers at the FASNY Firemen's Home and let them know that we are thinking of them. I'm sure They will appreciate it. There are Five members from Albany County who are Home members; Norma June, George Fink, Jason Wheatly and Mr & Mrs Gerald DeLuca The Address is

Name of Resident  
C/O FASNY Firemen's Home  
125 Harry Howard Ave.  
Hudson NY 12534

## 4<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION VACANCY

The Association is looking for someone to fill the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Director's position. Anyone from Boght Community, Maplewood, Menands, Schuyler Heights, S.W. Pitts or Verdoy Fire Companies are eligible for this position. If interested please contact any of the Association Officers listed on Page 5 or Secretary John Webb.

## ELSMERE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to the Elsmere Fire Company "A" who celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year with a Block Party on Sept 17<sup>th</sup> and hosting the ACVFA Annual Dinner on Sept 21<sup>st</sup>. Well Done

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## NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting of the Association was held on September 21 at the Elsmere Fire Station as part of the Elsmere Fire Company's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Before the meeting Marc Futia, Chief of Elsmere welcome everyone to Elsmere, pointed out the Fire Exits and the location of the rest rooms and hoped that all enjoy the Dinner. Also welcoming the Association was Rick Webster, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Elsmere Fire District and President of the Elsmere Fire Company. Chaplain Hough gave the opening prayer and a BBQ Chicken Dinner was served to the 150 members and guests present. After Dinner The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Burt Frederick. Sgt-at-arms Don Champion led the pledge of Alligence. 1st Vice President Robert White introduced the guests in Attendance. Darlene Wilson, President of the Albany County Ladies Auxiliary, Santo Chan Rivera, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president of FASNY, John Farrell, Past President of FASNY, Marilyn Schrader, President of the Board of Trustee's of the FASNY Firefighter's Home, Michael Karashy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Hudson Valley VFA, Robert Schrader, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of Hudson Valley, Fred Pettingell Secretary of Hudson Valley, Yale Frank and Jeri Mehan, Directors of Hudson Valley, Dave Jordan President of Hudson Mohawk, Bill Mehan, Treasurer and Vickie Dichan Director of Hudson Mohawk, Greene County VFA Vice President Antonio Fuentes and Tom With, Chief Chaplain of the NYS Chaplains Association. All gave short talks on their Associations and introduced other Officers. Elsmere Fire Company was presented certificates by FASNY, Hudson Valley, Hudson Mohawk Albany County VFA and Albany County Executives Office honoring their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Auxiliary President Darlene Wilson presented the Association a check for \$250.00 towards the expenses of the Newsletter. The Memorial Service was conducted by Chaplain Jonathan Hough, assisted by Tom With. The Firefighter of the year awards were presented to William Vinson of Knox, Clark Thomas of Voorheesville and Lt Steve Wright of Elsmere. (See page 1). Motion was made and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the August Directors Meeting. Communications were read and one bill was approved for payment. Tom With of the Burn Fund gave an update on the Burn Fund and Fred Pettingell gave a report as Treasurer of the Burn Fund. Trophies were presented to the muster/ Inspection Day winners(see page one). Motion was made to take a full page ad in the Dinner Journal for FASNY Past President John Farrell.

Marylyn Schrader gave a detailed report on the Firefighters Home. Attending the meeting were 9 Officers, 17 Companies represented, 135 Association members and 15 guests. Arlene LaDuke won the 50-50.

## CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL CORNER

**Winter is fast approaching and The Holiday Season is upon us. I hope everyone has a Good Thanksgiving and Great Christmas and a Happy New Year. We have had a Few Members that have gone to be with the Father in the Heavens. We need you to pray for the Families and Keep them in your prayers. If you know of any member of a Fire Company or Department that has passed away please call me on my cell at 518-894-0374 or my home phone at 518-756-7074. The names of our Deceased Members**

<b>James J. Berry</b>	<b>Delmar</b>
<b>Raymond H. Clark III</b>	<b>West Albany</b>
<b>Ryan J. Gagliardi</b>	<b>Fuller Road</b>
<b>Robert Darling</b>	<b>Catskill Fire Co</b>
<b>Honorary Member &amp; Organizer of ACVFA</b>	
<b>Gerald W. Grippin</b>	<b>New Salem</b>
<b>Brad Kellam</b>	<b>Selkirk # 3</b>
<b>Edward G. Rhyners</b>	<b>Fuller Road</b>
<b>Ronald H. Kusel</b>	<b>New Salem</b>
<b>Jerome R. Toomey Jr</b>	<b>Slingerlands</b>
<b>William J. Von Atzingen</b>	<b>Greenville</b>
<b>Steven L. Bose</b>	<b>Westerlo</b>

## TAB COLLECTIONS

If you have been keeping those tab's please bring them to the next meeting when we meet again and if I am not there the Secretary will make sure I get them. Thanks to all who brought their Tabs to the dinner meeting and to William Borger of Delmar Fire and his son Gabe for the large amount of tabs he gave to me. The Shriners and I thank you for all of your support.

## FACEBOOK PAGE

**For update's please check our Facebook page. Albany County Volunteer Firemen's Association.**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

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## LADIES AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Albany County Volunteer Fireman's Association is pleased to announce they will once again present their one-time only scholarship of \$2500 for the year 2023. The Applicant must be applying to further their education at a 2 year or 4 year college. The applicant must live in Albany County and the applicant or a member of the applicant's immediate family must be associated with a Fire Department/company or Auxiliary that is a member in good standing with the Albany County Volunteer Fireman's Association or Ladies Auxiliary of the same. Deadline for applications is April 1, 2023. If you are interested in receiving an application please contact Diane Burega at either 518-858-9084 or by E mail [dburega13@gmail.com](mailto:dburega13@gmail.com)

## ACVFA LA MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Diana Balling has agreed to take over Membership in addition to being Secretary. Letters were sent out to all individual members along with Auxiliary members on October 13. If the information in that letter does not agree with your records, please send along either a Dues Receipt or a Dues card stating what you are paid thru. Your cancelled check (Front and Back) will work as well.

ACVFA LA is currently working on getting the dues records caught up which is a bit difficult. Diana has already been contacted by an individual along with one Auxiliary and is working on those updates. So please reach out to her. Diana's cell phone number is 845-389-7115 and her Email is [dlb@megacity.org](mailto:dlb@megacity.org)

## AUXILIARY FUND RAISER

Looking for a Christmas present, why not purchase a daily lottery raffle ticket from the Auxiliary. These raffle tickets are great to insert in a Christmas card to your family and friends. They are only \$5 for a month of chances to win. The proceeds help us to give a worthy student in Albany County a \$2500 scholarship. Please contact Karen McDonald at 518-477-4351 or any member of the Auxiliary for tickets.

## UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT DARLENE WILSON

It was so nice to see 20 members at our last meeting. Let's add to this number at our next meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> at S.W.Pitts. Our June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting will be hosted by New Salem Auxiliary. We are still looking for a host for Sept 25<sup>th</sup> and our October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be at West Albany. Thanks to those Auxiliaries for hosting us.

Please notify an Officer or Joanne Jantz at [jjantz@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jjantz@nycap.rr.com) if you know of a member who is in need of a card or a death in their family.

By now everyone should be up to date on their dues for 2022, if not please do so prior to May 31, 2023 when a new year starts.

I would like to wish our two adopted Home members, Mike Hongach (North Tarrytown Fire Patrol # 1, Westchester Cty) and Paul "Jake" Smith (Kingston Fire Dept. Ulster County) a wonderful Holiday Season. We remember our adoptees by gifts at Christmas and on their Birthday. Also cards are sent throughout the year to remind them we are thinking of them.

Don't forget our \$2500 scholarship applications are out and submission deadline is April 1, 2023.

In closing, enjoy your holidays, however you celebrate them, with friends or loved ones. Remember to keep our fire/first responders members and their families in your thoughts particularly this time of year when not having friends and family to surround us can be especially difficult. Think of how you can include members you haven't seen in a while in your holiday cheer. Even a card call or visit could brighten their lives.

## COEYMANS FIRE COMPANY LADIES AUXILIARY HOLIDAY FAIR DECEMBER 3

The Coeymans Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary will be having their Annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Coeymans Fire Station located at 67 Church Street in Coeymans. The Fair will run from 9 AM to 3 PM with more 40 crafters and suppliers available. Breakfast and Lunch will be available and there will be raffles taking place. Come to the Fair and get that special Holiday Gift.

### WALTER "BILL" ECK JR. FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS



ABOVE IS CHIEF WILLIAM "BILL" VINSON OF KNOX



ABOVE IS QUARTERMASTER CLARK THOMAS OF  
THE VOORHEESVILLE FIRE DEPT WITH HIS FAMILY



ABOVE IS THE FAMILY OF LT STEVE WRIGHT OF  
ELSMERE ACCEPTING HIS AWARD POSTHUMOSLY

### NYS ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHAPLAINS ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD JULY 17-20

The NYSAFC held their Annual Training Conference in July at the Comfort Inn in East Greenbush. It was an informative Conference with Training from the Four Chaplains Foundation, NYS Office of Mental Health and Dept of Homeland Security and Emergency services Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The theme was the "Four Chaplains" We had Chaplain Refresher Training by Rev Gary Holden who did a day long presentation on "Introduction to being a Fire Chaplain" Steven Moskowitz presented "Psychological First Aid- Responding to extreme stress, a review of "NYS Project Hope and "MYS Disasters & Mental health Response" We concluded our Conference with training on "Cancer in the NYS Fire Service presented by Fire Protection Specialist Timothy Graves. On Tuesday evening the Annual Memorial Service and Annual Dinner was held at the Fuller Road Fire Station.

If you do not have a Chaplain within your Fire Dept. and would like to establish one, please contact myself, my email address is on the website of [nysafc.org](http://nysafc.org) or Secretary John Webb also has it. Interested in joining the Association? Please contact myself or Executive Secretary William Miles at [nysafc@gmail.com](mailto:nysafc@gmail.com)

2022-2024 NYS Assoc. of Fire Chaplains Officers



From left to right; Treasurer David Quinn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dep. Chief Chaplain Joseph McCarthy, Chief Chaplain Thomas With, 1<sup>st</sup> Dep. Chief Chaplain Richard Bolster and Executive Secretary William Miles



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## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA AT VOORHEESVILLE

The Voorheesville Fire Dept will hold their Annual Hungry Man's Breakfast with Santa on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> from 7 AM to Noon. All you can eat Breakfast includes Eggs cooked to order, toast, pancakes, French Toast, Bacon, Sausage, beverage and Santa for the Kids. Breakfast is \$10 for 12 and older. \$5 for ages 6 to 11 and free for those 5 and under. Will be held at the Voorheesville Fire Station at 12 Altamont Road in Voorheesville.

## DON ALBRIGHT 50 YEAR CELEBRATION

Don Albright was honored on October 23<sup>rd</sup> by the Guilderland Center Fire Dept. for his 50 years of Service with a celebration at the Guilderland Center Fire Station. Don received certificates from FASNY, Hudson Valley, Hudson Mohawk and Albany County VFA. Guilderland Center presented Don With A White Chief's Helmet. Pictured below is ACVFA President Burt Frederick presenting Don with his certificate from ACVFA.



## MEETING DATES FOR 2023

Locations are needed for the Association meetings for 2023. The dates are March 8, May 10 (Annual Meeting), August 9 (Directors Meeting) and Dec 13, 2022. We also need a host for the Sept. Dinner Meeting. For more info on hosting a meeting contact John Webb by E Mail at [jlwsec@gmail.com](mailto:jlwsec@gmail.com) or by cell at 518-256-7359

## ACVFA CURRENT OFFICERS

President	Burton Frederick	861-6635
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Robert White	772-9807
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Tom Cascone	441-5162
Recording Secretary	John Webb	256-7359
Treasurer	Fred Pettingell	466-6357
Financial Secretary	Clayton Ash	861-7445
Chaplain	Jonathan Hough	894-0374
Sargent-at-Arms	Don Champion	872-1676
Board Chairman	Matt Wilcenski	221-3437

## BATTALION DIRECTORS

First Battalion	Mike Taylor	858-5342
Second Battalion	Frank Papa	765-3764
Third Battalion	Charles Feldmann	859-6883
Fourth Battalion	VACANT	
Fifth Battalion	Henry Smith	859-5088
Sixth Battalion	Marc Platt	461-5141

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

### ALBANY COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Member Company/Department	\$ 15.00
Individual Member	\$ 10.00
Associate Company/Department	\$ 15.00
Associate Individual Member	\$ 10.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town \_\_\_\_\_  
State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Dept/Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Home/Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Elected as Member \_\_\_\_\_

Please return Application and the correct fee to Clayton Ash, ACVFA Financial Secretary, 1138 Meadowdale Road, Altamont NY 12009  
Thank you for Joining

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## DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

If you would like to publicize your upcoming event or news about your Company or Auxiliary that you would like to share please send the information to the Editor John Webb. Best way is by E mail at [jlwsec@gmail.com](mailto:jlwsec@gmail.com) By phone at 518-756-3281 or by mail: John Webb, 30 Van Buren Ave, Ravena NY 12143. The deadline for the next Issue is February 15, 2023 This issue can include information on events happening anytime after March 1.

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

Dec 3 – Coeymans Fire Co Auxiliary Annual Holiday Fair. Info on page 3

Dec 11 – Voorheesville Fire Dept Breakfast with Santa. Info on page 5

Dec 14 – ACVFA Quarterly Meeting at Delmar. Starts at 7:30 PM.

Jan 28 – Hudson Valley Past Presidents Dinner at Best Western Hotel, Kingston NY

March 8 - ACVFA Quarterly meeting scheduled. Need a host

March 27 – Ladies Auxiliary meeting at S.W. Pitts  
Please remember that any event listed is subject to change due to the continuing changes with the covid – 19 rules. Please check with the sponsoring organization to make sure the event is still scheduled.

## ADVERTISING

The ACVFA is always taking Ads for the Newsletter to help with expenses. We wish to thank the following for their support this past year; river Valley Radio, Josephine “Josie” Bruno and Diane Balling, Past President of LAFASNY. The size of the ads are Business card size and cost \$25 per Issue or \$75 for Four Issues. No ads will be allowed that could cause any embarrassment to the Association or that promotes any type of illegal activity. For more information contact the editor John Webb at 518-756-3281 or by E mail at [jlwsec@gmail.com](mailto:jlwsec@gmail.com)

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Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Serving the area as a Volunteer Firefighter  
and EMT for over 32 years.



**Diana Balling**  
**LAFASNY Jr. Past President**

1041 Blue Mountain Road  
Saugerties NY 12477

[dlb@megacity.org](mailto:dlb@megacity.org) / 845-389-7115

## NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

We now have 196 that receive the newsletter by E mail. To receive the newsletter by E mail send an E Mail to the editor requesting the newsletter be sent that way. Send the E mail to [jlwsec@gmail.com](mailto:jlwsec@gmail.com) Every E mailed newsletter saves the Association \$1.15 Also the E mail editions will have pictures if any That will be in color. Mailed copies will be in Black and white.



**Above is Guilderland Center Fire Chief David Dodge presenting Don with a Guilderland Center Chiefs Helmet**



**Above is Tom With of FASNY presenting Don with a certificate from FASNY**



**Above is Hudson Valley VFA Secretary Fred Pettingell presenting Don with Certificates from Hudson Valley VFA and Hudson Mohawk VFA**



**Above is Guilderland Center Fire Dept. Vice President Doug Efaw presenting Don with a Certificate.**