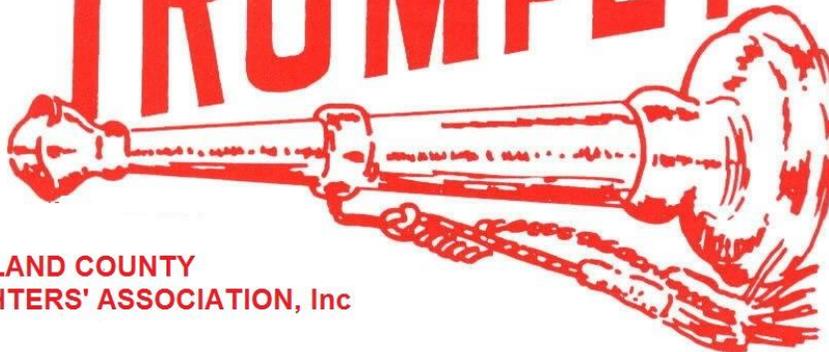


THE TRUMPET



ROCKLAND COUNTY
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc

“COMPLIMENTARY COPY”

Editor Emeritus: Stuart L. Gates, Dec 5, 1928-Nov 15, 2024

Editor: Sheryl Rose

ROCKLAND FIRE CHIEFS DINNER

The Annual Old Timers Dinner was held on Sat, Mar 8, 2025 at the Haverstraw Elks Lodge.

This year's MC was Frank Jewett. He opened the night with an Invocation by Chaplain Frank Bifulco, then lead everyone with the Pledge.

The first award was the Lt Andrew A Fredericks Instructor of the Year which was given to Dennis Borrelli, who was on vacation in Florida, but he did send a Thank You email to Frank Jewett, which he read.

The next award was the Jerome Trachtenberg Award which was given to Jim Hartwick, Mazeppa, Nyack for his many years of outstanding service to the Fire Service.

William V Harris Award was given to Sheriff Lou Falco for his many years of friendship and all his help to get a Firefighter Memorial built for all Fallen Firefighters.

Charles "Smokey" Fales Award for over 50 years of active service. It was given to 3 people this year.

1. Paul Hylas Relief Hose, Haverstraw
2. Joe Natale, Relief Hose, Haverstraw
3. Warren Gould, Highland Hose, Nyack

Active Chiefs Award went to Ken V Gordon, Orangeburg Fire Dept

There were several special guests present:

- Sheriff Lou Falco
- Supervisor-Clarkstown George Hoeman
- Congressman Mike Lawler

It was noted that there are no longer any charter members still alive, and the oldest Member of Assoc is now Al Magnatta (x44-2, who turned 100 in Jan 2025).

Life Members were given out by Glenn Zahlmann to 23 members:

Damien Lennon, FD 3
 Robert Shields, FD 3
 Chris Bowers, FD 6
 Concepcion Crespo "Tito", FD 6
 John Erzen, FD 6
 John Milhard "Chippy", FD 6
 Lewis Sacks, FD 6
 Adam Gordon "Big Lou", FD 7
 Brian Ready, FD 8
 Robert Booth, FD10
 Bill Lynch, FD 10
 John Durkin Jr, FD 15
 Christopher Morse, FD 15
 Kenneth Conjura, FD 17
 Marcus Padilla, FD 17
 Jeremy Kaufer, FD 19
 Chris Szklany, FD 20
 Richard Farry FD 21
 Michael Healey FD 21
 John Stuercke, FD 21
 Kevin Leitner FD 24
 Terence Reynolds, FD 24
 Brian Ulrich, FD 24

2025 Officers

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 Chaplains: Frank Bifulco & John Kapral
 Jr. Past Presidents: Kevin Huslinger & Jason Goldsmith

There was no Benediction but a moment of silence for Past Pres Thomas Bierds.
 The food was served by members of Wayne Hose, Stony Point, great job.

The annual Video Year in Review was not shown but will be shown at the next Meeting on Mar 20 at Hillcrest.

WORKING FIRES



March 8, 2025 at 11:40pm. Tallman Fire Department structure fire at 297 Spook Rock Road on. Mutual aid received from Suffern, Mahwah, Monsey, Hillburn and Spring valley Fire Departments.



March 9, 2025 Spring Valley structure fire on Franklin Court. Mutual aid received from Hillcrest, South Spring Valley and Monsey Fire Departments. The Nanuet and Tallman Fire Departments stood by and provided coverage for all Spring valley additional incidents.

CARTOONS BY PETE CARNEY



Love being a Dept 12 fireman. Meet my grandkids: O'Halligan and O'Tool.

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1ST ANNUAL FIREFIGHTERS CHALLENGE



First annual Reps For Responders Firefighters Challenge was held on March 1, 2025. Congratulations to the Congers Fire Department who came in first place. Thank you to Nyack, Haverstraw, New City, Hillcrest, Congers and Blauvelt Fire Departments who all participated. – Chris Kear, 44-1

WE SADLY REPORT THAT:

Mike Chadwick Sr. died Mar 19, 2025, age 73. He was a Firefighter/EMT with Piermont Fire Dept.

Xavier Egger died Apr 2, 2025, age 19. He was a U.S. Army service member and volunteer firefighter in Stony Point FD.

Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI)

Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) a part of Underwriters Laboratories is holding a summit in Philadelphia (Sept 2025) to solicit ideas for future research. As you know, FSRI has developed tactical considerations for search and fire attack at house fires based on many live burns and about \$30,000,000 of FEMA funded tests.

In 2018, I was selected to be on the technical panel that guided the \$1.5M fire attack study for house fires. Recently, I was fortunate to be invited to the 2025 summit to help guide future research for our

Fire Service. Of course I have a few ideas but two heads are better than one.

If you have any ideas for future research that will benefit our Fire Service, make us more effective for the people we are sworn to protect or to make our job safer and more effective, please email me jknapp23@aol.com. I will be sure you will get full credit since it is your idea and your idea may get you a place on a future technical panel. – Jerry Knapp



Recently there has been a few changes in the Rockland County HERRO tuition reimbursement program. The changes are to help streamline the overall process and help assist your applicant in completing the application. The following changes in the program are as follows:

Section: Program Incentives and Disclosures:

- #2: Previously, the program only indicated that the applicant was eligible up to \$6000 annually in tuition reimbursement. Added was 'up to \$3000 per semester'.
- #8: added 'Check regularly for the latest updates to the program'.

Section: Application Requirements:

- #3: added the 'volunteer shall be a legal resident of Rockland County and serving in an eligible Rockland County Sponsoring Agency'.

Section : Application Process:

- #3: Application process. Fall semester deadline extended to January 7. (**but, please do not wait too long to submit the application!!**) Completed applications will not be accepted after the deadline.

Section: Tuition Reimbursement:

- added 'W-9 must be signed and dated'.

Appendices:

- added, Appendices A, B, C and D must be completed and submitted.

Appendix A:

- Grades: changed the fall semester date to the new date of January 7.
- added 'Mark your calendars so that you do not miss the deadline. Completed Applications will not be accepted after the deadline'.

School Bill:

- added 'please contact your school directly who will provide this information'. Re: itemized school bill.

Proof of Payment:

- added a few new options: Bank Statement Detail Page (ACH) , Bank Statement and Paid in full with no loans.

County of Rockland Fire and Emergency Services Website:

added three short tutorial sections that will assist the applicant.

- added a FAQ section.
- Online application is now in a 'fillable' form.

Please make sure that your officers and members are aware of these most recent updates/changes. This should be forwarded to your department/company President or the individual who is in charge of the HERRO program. - Chris Kear

2025 to date: 12 applications (so far), \$7,126 in reimbursements

2024: 166 applications, \$217,124 in reimbursement

NYS OFPC VOLUNTEER STIPEND PROGRAM

Program Beginning to March 8, 2025:

Payments Complete:

BEFO: 866 for \$649,500

BEFO-Blended: 107 for \$80,250

SCBA/IFO: 787 for \$783,750

BEFO/IFO-Blended: 158 for \$316,000

Fire Officer 1: 51 for \$51,000

Fire Officer 1-Mudual Series: 212 for \$212,000

Total: \$2,092,500

Currently another \$670,250 in payments are being processed.

Reps For Responders
Non-Profit 501c3
 Giving First Responders A Space To Feel, Heal & Thrive

Frank, Founder & President
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Homes for Heroes

WHAT: Post Traumatic Growth

Firefighters, EMTs and Police officers experience things normal people do not. Only Super Heroes take on the challenge of running into burning buildings, extricating people from horrendous car wrecks, EMTs trying to fan the flames of life in a dying patient and of course, our own close calls. Burned bodies, mutilated victims, homes destroyed and ever present stress of making calm out of chaos is not a routine task, except for us. But we have "normal reactions to abnormal situations" according to Dr Steve Levy a Post Traumatic counselor on RC Critical Incident Stress Team. Often these "normal reactions" show up as PTSD and in negative ways. We may drink, get divorced, act irrationally, take drugs and may end up with suicide. Even us Super Heroes are human and can suffer and we may not know the cause or the cure or even recognize the disease until it is too late.

SO WHAT?: The flip side of PTSD is post traumatic growth. It can be a wonderful experience. Actually, it is simple, after a bad call, ask yourself "What can I learn from this?" How can I make myself or my team better?" Dive into that. As Gordon Wren would say, "Make lemons out of lemonade." I learned to view these experiences as a scar, just like you would have on your skin. It is not going away, you survived so learn to deal with it in the best way possible. For me, the fix was to figure out what I did not know, how I was nearly killed and turn it into a training program that I have had the honor of taking across our great Nation to our Firefighter Brothers and Sisters.

NOW WHAT?: Look out for each other. Look for the signs of "normal reactions to abnormal situations." You know the kind of calls we go to every day and think it "it doesn't bother me." My wife recognized my "normal reactions." She simply said I was acting like an ass and if I want to stay married I need to do something. I had no clue but Dr Levy helped me understand it and ultimately correcting my unknown but very bad behavior. Please, look out for each other. It is not easy. Victims, you and me, cant see the forest for the trees.

One of the best things you can do for yourself and all your members after these bad calls is to have the RC Critical Incident Stress Team come to your department for a debriefing. It is just a fancy name to show your members how they may or may not have "normal reactions." It is free and only takes an hour. Jerry Knapp

ATTENTION RESIDENTS & SUPPORTERS!

We are seeking car donations for essential hands-on training for volunteer firefighters.

Every vehicle, no matter the condition, can make a difference & we encourage those with an old car taking up space to consider donating it. You can also receive a tax deduction for your donation!

Contact us today for more information at 845-364-8927 or email us at byrnep@co.rockland.ny.us



CAR DONATIONS ACCEPTED

To be used to train your local Volunteers in Vehicle Extrication and Vehicle Fires.



You can drop the cars off at
The ROCKLAND COUNTY Fire Training Center
35 Firemens Memorial Drive in Pomona
Or we will pick it up.

Just call (845) 364-8927 or email us at byrnep@co.rockland.ny.us



Photo: 10/13/14



Generator Safety

Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Portable generators are a temporary solution to power appliances. It's important to know that portable generators emit carbon monoxide (CO), a poisonous, deadly gas. Use these tips to avoid CO exposure:

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas at least 20 feet (7 metres) from all doors, windows, and vent openings. Measure the 20-foot (7 metres) distance from the generator to the building.
- Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building. The exhaust must be directed away from the building.
- Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.


 Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

Just Remember...

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

FACT

1 Portable generator exhaust is toxic and deadly. Do not stand or sit downwind of generator exhaust. If you can smell exhaust, you are inhaling it.




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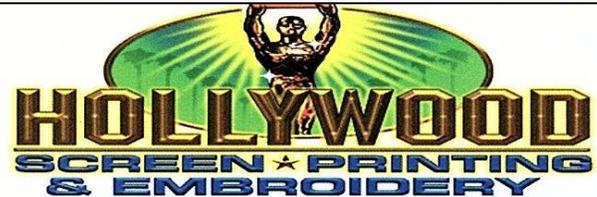
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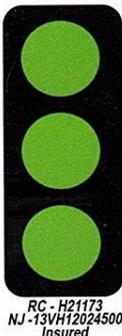
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CALENDAR**LISTINGS ARE FREE****845-364-8800****Deadline for Next Issue Last Wed. 4/30/2025**

- Fri. Mar 7-till Apr 18 ● SW Johnson 12th Annual Fish Fry, 6-8 PM, 37 Bridge St, Garnerville, All dinners come with soup, salad bar and dessert!!! Take out available!!! 845-947-2550
- Fri Apr 11 ● RCVFA Next Meeting.7:30 PM at Blauvelt with Pres Evan Humphrey, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member
- Wed, Apr 16 ● Museum Board Work detail,1:00 PM, @FTC, with Chairperson Lisa Castaldo-Gessner
- Thur, Apr 17 ● RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM,at SW Johnson, with Pres Eleanor DeGraw
- Wed, Apr 23 ● RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Orangeburg, with Pres Chris Kear
- NYSAFC Shorthanded Firefighting, 7 PM, at FTC, Instructors Mike Healy & Jeff Daniels, \$35 members, \$50 non-members, Register <https://www.nysfirechiefs.com/2025seminarseries>
- Fri, Apr 25 ● Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Frank Bifulco
- Wed, Apr 30 ● NJ&NY VFA, 8:00 PM at **UNKNOWN**, with Pres Patrick Conner
- RCVFA Brd of Dir, 7:30 PM at 6-100 Hillcrest, with Chairperson Frank Bifulco
- Deadline for articles for Trumpet
- Sun, May 4 ● Hillcrest Fire Co, Food Truck & Music Fest, 11 AM-7 PM, \$5 @ Gate, kids under 5 FREE, Eugene Levy Park, Pomona, 15+ Gourmet Food Trucks, Live Music, and more
- Thur, May 8 ● Museum Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairperson Lisa Castaldo-Gessner
- Thur-Sat, May 8-10 ● The International Association of Fire Chiefs Eastern Division (EDIAFC) Conference, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Lake George, NY. The theme is “When Disasters Happen.”
- Fri, May 9 ● RCVFA Next Meeting.7:30 PM at Congers, Past Presidents, with Pres Evan Humphrey, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member

Future Events

- Sat, May 10 ● Empire Hose Company #1 is hosting the 1st Piermont Fire 5K to help recruit new members and raise money for our participating Fire & EMS Charity Partners. The event was created to kick off the 175th-year anniversary of the Piermont FD in 2026. Over the years their mutual aid partners in the Fire & EMS services have supported Department 13 and with this event, they want to help support them. Fundraising often takes a back seat to other priorities and recruiting new members continues to be a challenge. Further details are on the Piermont Fire Department Facebook page or [rsignup.com/Race/NY/Piermont/PiermontFire5K](https://www.rsignup.com/Race/NY/Piermont/PiermontFire5K)
- Wed, May 14 ● RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Stony Point, with Pres Doug Mann
- RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at Vol Hose, Suffern, with Pres Matt DeGennaro
- Thur, May 15 ● RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at SW Johnson, with Pres Chris Kear
- Sat, May 17 ● Excelsior Fire Engine Company No. 1, 3rd Annual Wing Night, 6:30-11 PM, \$20 includes all you can eat wings, fries, and beverages. 50/50 raffle and other purchases will be available the night of.
- Sun, May 18 ● NJ/NY VFA Memorial Service 2 PM Bergen County Fire Academy, 281-291 Campgaw Rd, Mahwah, NJ, Dates to be Memorialized April 15, 2024 to Mar 15, 2025
- Wed, May 21 ● RC Vol Safety Officers Assoc, BOD 6:30 PM. Mtg 7:30 PM, at Hillcrest Elections, with Pres Vincent Pacella
- RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, at Hillcrest, with Pres Eleanor DeGraw
- Tue, May 27 ● Association of Fire Districts, 7:30PM, at Congers with Pres Vincent Pacella
- OCVFA, Regular Meeting, Refreshments/Dinner 6:45 PM, Meeting 7:30 PM, at New Hampton Past Presidents night
- Wed, May 28 ● RCVFA Brd of Dir, 7:30 PM at 6-100 Hillcrest, with Chairperson Frank Bifulco
- Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Frank Bifulco

To view this newsletter on line, please go to the following web site:<http://www.rcvfa.com/trumpet.html>

Thanks to Sheryl Rose, Stuart Gates, and Chuck Larkin

Please email Sheryl Rose with any Fire Department news, dates of events, fundraisers, etc. SherylERose58@gmail.com

Garnerville, NY 10923
PO Box 16
RCVFA TRUMPET



**FROM THE
FIRE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE**



Mayday is a term/procedure we use in the Fire Service as a distress call and a need for help. It signals a potential life-threatening situation to one of our brave brother or sister firefighters. It is a word we all know but most fear to use. We fear that getting our chops broken is somehow worse than the situation you are dealing with. This is a stigma that we need to break. It's better to call a mayday and rescind it, than not giving one at all. Believe it or not before the mid-1990's the fire service did not recognize a standard to calling a mayday. Most members if in need of help would say just that "we need help or come get us." When transmitting a mayday, we need to know the "who, what, where." In Rockland County we designed a basic standard that came from the Fire Coordinators Office. It goes like this: mayday, mayday, mayday firefighter Smith with a mayday. After the transmission of said mayday an acknowledgment of that mayday "MUST" be given. As said across the fire service "a message not received is a message not given. So, if your mayday goes unheard try to continue giving it until it's acknowledged. This is something that should be practiced on every drill night, not for hours but just mere minutes. Just ask one of your members without any prep-time to just say a mayday as if they were giving it for real. Then ask another member and another member, you'll be amazed on how different the messages are. It's all about practice and getting those reps in so it becomes second nature heaven forbid you have to give one for real. Maydays should be given for the following reasons: Imminent Collapse, Collapse Occurred, Unconscious Firefighter, Missing or Lost Firefighter. We also must remember when a mayday is given all unnecessary radio traffic must stop!! That means unless your transmissions are directly in support of the rescue of said member or you've located the member everyone else should 'SHUT UP". There are some that feel a mayday should be given for urgent type message also. They feel that this way member's don't have to really think about whether or not their situation warrants a mayday. We feel that if that's done then the word "mayday" gets watered down and won't mean as much, especially if we hear it so much for nonsense things. Just like anything else keep training and stay focused. Be Safe! – Bob LaGrow 44-7