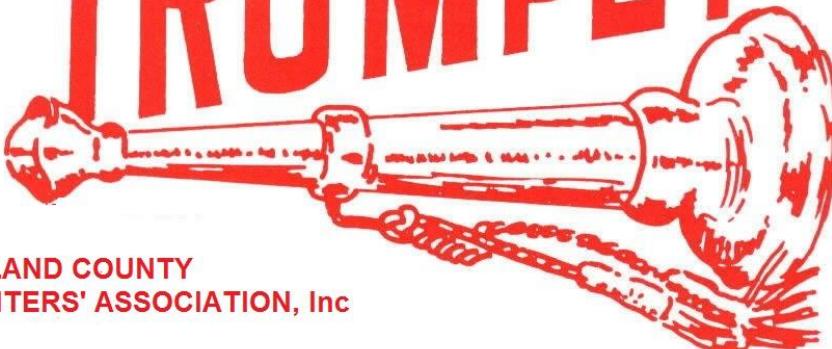


# THE TRUMPET



ROCKLAND COUNTY  
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION, Inc

## “COMPLIMENTARY COPY”

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

**Editor:** **Sheryl Rose**

### LAST CALL/FIRST CALL 2025/26

Last FD 19 Vehicle Fire  
First FD 7 Outside Smoke Investigation

Frank Jewett

**44-13**

Dan Moran

**44-18**

### NEW DEPUTY FIRE COORDINATORS

I am pleased to announce the addition of two new Deputy Fire Coordinators for Clarkstown. Dennis Borrelli and Frank Jewett are officially onboard. We look forward to them working with everyone in support of all our departments. Dennis will be 44-11 and Frank will be 44-13. Thank you for your continued support as we continue to fill out and build the Coordinator ranks. - Chris Kear

### CARTOONS BY PETE CARNEY



THIS SIGNAL 13 DOESN'T TASTE VERY GOOD, PLEASE DO NOT TELL ME MY WIFE JOINED THE LADIES AUXILIARY.

### STONY POINT OFFICERS 2026

<u>Fire Coordinator</u>	<u>ID</u>
Christopher Kear	<b>44-1</b>
Ray Redmond	<b>44-2</b>
Michael Stark	<b>44-3</b>
Thomas McKiernan	<b>44-4</b>
Robert LaGrow	<b>44-5</b>
Christopher Jackson	<b>44-6</b>
Matthew Stritmater	<b>44-7</b>
Kenny Conjura	<b>44-8</b>
Andrew Schlissel	<b>44-9</b>
Adam Feuer	<b>44-10</b>
Dennis Borrelli	<b>44-11</b>
Peter Byrne	<b>44-12</b>

Chief	Mark Cronin
1 <sup>st</sup> Asst Chief	Frank Lopresti
2 <sup>nd</sup> Asst Chief	Curtis Wicks
Capt	Christopher Cass
1 <sup>st</sup> LT	Thomas Cass Jr
2 <sup>nd</sup> LT	Dylan Raymond
3 <sup>rd</sup> LT	Osvaldo Flores
Engineers	Anthony Hardin
	Daniel Shea
Pres	Joseph Robinson
Vice-Pres	Michael Cataldi
Treas	Kristen Wicks
Rec Sec'y	Daniel Condon
Corr Sec'y	Andrew Roff
Asst Treas	Stephen Kohout
Fin Sec'y	Charles Larkin
Steward	Craig Robinson
Sgt at Arms	Oscar Henriquez

Brd of Directors Stephen Fischer  
 Edward Geaty  
 Frederick Hardin  
 Melanie Perri  
 Paul Schlegel

### TROPHY WINNERS FOR THE 2025 GREAT HOLIDAY PARADE.

We congratulate not just all of the winners but for all the parade participants that made the parade very special for our little buddies.

From the bottom of our hearts we thank you and our wonderful community for making this event great.

Chiefs Trophy - Tonka Truck (MGM Paving)

Presidents Trophy - Mahwah Air Boat

FD/EMS/PD Category - Best - West Paterson

1st Place - Nyack Fire Department

2nd Place - New City Fire Department

3rd Place - Old Tappan

Civilian Vehicles

1st - Montana Construction

2nd - First Due Crew

Commercial Vehicles

Best - Two Brothers Construction

1st - AMH Restoration

2nd - Edge Landscaping

Antique - Pearl River Hook & Ladder

Floats

1st - Sons of Italy

2nd - Aunt Mia's Sweets

Most Creative - Penguin Plunge

We also thank the Orangetown Police, Orangetown Auxiliary Police, RC Sheriff Reserves, RC Sheriff Mounted Unit, RC Fire Police, RC Safety Officers, Orangetown Highway Department, and all of our volunteers that protect our community 24/7/365 plus help with the many community events we host throughout the year.

Stay Safe - enjoy this wonderful seas

### NEW HAZ MAT MEMBER

The officers and members of the Rockland County Haz Mat Team would like to welcome their newest team member Kevin Bonkoski. Kevin is Assistant Chief with the Sloatsburg Fire Department and a Rockland County Fire Instructor

### WORKING FIRES



November 21, 2025, Dept 2 Bus Fire on Tappan Zee Bridge, Mutual Aid from Dept Tarrytown, 13, 10 & RC Haz Mat Team



Dec 09, 2025 08:59:27 1 & 3 Wolfe Drive in Spring Valley. Dept 17, 7, 6 & 25 on the initial dispatch. Mutual aid from Dept 24, 19, 12, 11& 26. 44-1, 44-6, 44-12, Sheriff's Fire Investigation Unit, SVPD, Office of Building & Codes, O&R



Dec 21, 2025, Monsey FD structure fire at 14 Jeffery Place. Mutual aid was received from the Spring Valley FD, Hillcrest FD, Thiells FD, New City FD, South Spring Valley FD, Pearl River FD, Suffern FD and West Nyack FD. Also responding were 44-5, 44-7, 44-9 and 44-11. The fire was brought under control in two hours. The fire is not deemed suspicious and still under investigation by the Sheriff's Fire Investigation Unit.



December 28, 2025. Hillcrest structure fire located at 908 Route 45. Mutual aid from New City FD for a FAST Team and Spring Valley FD for an engine. Fire was under control within a half an hour. Investigation being performed by the Sheriff's Fire Investigation Unit and the Town of Ramapo Fire Inspector. 44-1, 44-5 and 44-11 also responded.

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## RC FIRE CHIEFS OLD TIMERS DINNER

The Rockland County Fire Chiefs Association will be holding the annual Old Timers Dinner on Sunday March 1, 2026 1300hrs at the Haverstraw Elks Club located in Haverstraw, NY. The Board of Directors are asking each Department/Company to determine if you have a member that might fit into the below two award criteria:

### **Charles M. 'Smokey' Fales Award:**

Candidates will be a senior member who are still active in their respective Department and other firematic associations including committees and community service. The Candidate must follow in Smokey Fales image.

**Chief's Award:** The recipient of this award is a Member in good standing of the Rockland County Fire Chief's Association. He/She is or has served in the capacity of Chief Officer in their Department and has demonstrated a level of excellence in the fire service leadership.

If you chose to submit a well-deserved member for consideration, please send a letter of recommendation and resume/bio of their history in the fire service.

All applications must be received by Friday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Please mail/email to:

Frank Jewett  
405 Roseland Rd  
Upper Nyack, NY 10960  
[Frank.jewett@verizon.net](mailto:Frank.jewett@verizon.net)

## **HERE ARE A COUPLE VERY IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR ALL RC FDS.**

Compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles are a new hazard for all FDs. On my way back from Watertown, NY from a week of gas training (Great guys great FD!) on the NYS Thruway a CNG fueled semi passed me at the Newburg exit. Locally, on my way home from a staff and faculty hockey game at West Point, a similar truck was making a delivery in Highland Falls, NY. A beer distributor in Tallman, NY runs a fleet of CNG vehicles. A similar cng fueled truck fire in Los Angles (2024) caused the tank to explode sending 9 members to the hospital, 2 with serious injuries.

Fire Engineering published two feature articles I authored on CNG fueled trucks and virtual CNG pipelines both of which FDs need to be prepared for responses. Hopefully these will help you understand the deadly hazards. The Nov 2025 issue focus is on two truck fires (Los Angles and Indianapolis) emergencies/explosions with CNG fueled trucks, understanding the tanks construction and safety features and critical response considerations for the fuel module.

In Nov 24 issue, in coordination with NY OFPC staffers (Chief Dan Baker and Chris Gould) we provided an overview of virtual CNG pipelines and two more major emergencies. Virtual pipelines are shipping containers filled with 50 CNG cylinders (Type 4) pressurized to 3600psi. We highlighted the details of two major emergencies (one off the highway and one fire/explosion under a railroad bridge) and complex responses in NY with these trucks.

For complete details, these articles are available to you on the FE web site to help protect your members and civilians. Also see the tank and fuel module manufacturers' web sites for more detailed information. - Jerry Knapp

## **WE SADLY REPORT THAT:**



Pieter Grosbeck, died Dec 9, 2025, age 63. He was a member of Blauvelt Volunteer Fire Company, Ex-Chief and Life Member. Pieter was an Active 46 year member of the Fire Company currently serving as a Director on the Board of Directors. During his time in the Company, he served as Chief from 1995 to 1997, 2007 to 2009, and 2016 to 2017, as well as as Company President.



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Dr. Leonard Steinfeld, died Dec 4, 2025, age 88. He was the Monsey Fire Dept Company Surgeon



Timothy McDonald, died Dec 18, 2025, age 77. Tim joined Chelsea H&L in 1966 and held several leadership roles at the company level, serving as Captain from 1973–1974 and President in 1976. He also made history as the first individual to serve two terms as Chief of the Nyack Fire Department, from 1983–1985 and again from 1991–1993.



Anthony "Tony" Defeciani, died Dec 23, 2025, age 93. He was a 60-year member of Relief Hose Co No 3, Haverstraw. He was also an Ex Chief and company Chaplain.

## TWO VOLLIES AND A GUEST

Our new podcast on the Fire Engineering net is now live. Tim Pillsworth and I interview Fire Service experts on very specific topics to provide you with strategic and tactical considerations that you can use. This show the topic is tactical considerations for CSST caused house fires.

In the December episode we have two spectacular guests, Sara Laird and Celeste Flynn whose husbands were LODDs in house fires caused by CSST. They provide a background of these fires, causes and origin, latest research and tactical considerations to protect you and your members from this hazard that kills indiscriminately to those not aware.

Hope is not a plan, so I urge you to listen in to understand this latest Fire Service enemy to honor Josh and Nate's sacrifices. – Jerry Knapp

If you would prefer to receive your copy of "The Trumpet" in an electronic version rather than the paper version, please send us your e-mail address. We will add you to our e-mail list and remove you from the snail mail list. Please contact Sheryl Rose at [SherylERose58@gmail.com](mailto:SherylERose58@gmail.com)

## 4 GAS MONITOR

So Happy New Year, a time when a lot of FDs will do our Hazmat Refresher training. Explosive gases, natural gas and propane are the two most common dangerous hazardous Materials we will respond to during the year. Here are some important facts to get you started toward a safer and more effective New Year.

Here are a few things to consider for this year's refresher training.

1. Why does your 4 gas monitor have a clip on the back ? Because it is a **personal monitor**, designed to monitor the air around the wearer, about the size of a soft ball.
2. Why does our 4 gas monitor alarm at 10% LEL for combustible gases ? Because that is the OSHA standard for confined space. At 10% LEL in confined space rescues we have to evacuate or ventilate to get it down to safe levels. Same for alarms for oxygen and CO.
3. Why does the utility not use a 4 gas like ours? Our 4 gas is blind to about 2% LEL in the real world. All utilities use a metal oxide based sensor that will find low levels of gas.
4. Have you ever responded to a gas emergency and smelled gas but your instrument read zero ? Now you know why and why you should pair up your 4 gas with a metal oxide based unit.
5. Why is the utility gas tech's instrument better than our FD unit ? It is not, it contains an inexpensive but very effective metal oxide based sensor.
6. Where is the best place to use our explosive gas detector? Two places, just inside the main door and at the POE...point of entry where the pipes enter the building.
7. Why the POE? Because if the odor is coming from a pressurized underground leak the gas could be forced into the building thru pipe chases, pipes, cracks in the foundation, common utility trenches backfilled with sand, etc.
8. Why do our members get different readings ? Remember the gas is not in a uniform mixture. It is being driven by its vapor density and air currents.
9. When should our SOP require members to leave the building ? Good question, there is no national standard but this is called your ACTION LEVEL. A good number is 10% LEL or 20 % LEL.
10. What is the bottom line? Our job is LIFE SAFETY, not find and fix. Sure, find the pilot light out or the burner not turned off all the way. BUT....When you hit your action level it is time to get out, especially if you have already removed the civilian life hazard.

Jerry Knapp

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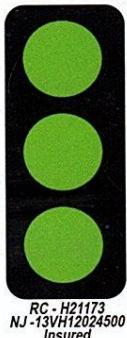
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**CALENDAR****LISTINGS ARE FREE****845-364-8800****Deadline for Next Issue Last Wed. 1/28/2026**

**Fri, Jan 9, 2026**

- RCVFA Next Meeting.7:30 PM at Orangetown Nyack, with Pres Evan Humphrey, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member

**Wed, Jan 14**

- RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at FTC, with Pres Doug Mann
- RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at Central Nyack, with Pres Matt DeGennaro

**Wed, Jan 21**

- RC Vol Safety Officers Assoc, BOD 6:30 PM. Mtg 7:30 PM, at UNKNOWN, with Pres Vincent Pacella
- RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, Tappan, with Pres Eleanor DeGraw
- Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Frank Bifulco
- RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Congers, with Pres Chris Kear
- Association of Fire Districts, 7:30PM, at UNKNOWN, with Pres Vincent Pacella
- OCVFA Regular Meeting, Refreshments/Dinner 6:45 PM, Meeting 7:30 PM, at Monroe Fire Dept (Mombasha)

**Thur, Jan 22**

- RCVFA Brd of Dir, 7:30 PM, at 6-100 Hillcrest FD, with Chairperson Frank Bifulco
- Deadline for articles for Trumpet

**Tue, Jan 27**

- NJ&NY VFA, 8:00 PM, at Piermont FD, (65<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year), 554 Piermont Ave, Piermont NY, with Pres Anthony Chiodo

**Sat, Jan 31**

- Elmsford Fire Dept, 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Lt Andy Fredericks FDNY Memorial Seminar & Exhibits, "Firefighter & Fire Officer 2026 Leadership Survival" Instructor; Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder, E.F.O. Loveland-Symmes, Ohio Fire Dept., at the Westchester Marriott Hotel, 670 White Plains Rd, Tarrytown, NY, \$45 to register <http://www.elmsfordfd.com/seminar>
- RC Fire Police Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Thiells, with Pres Doug Mann
- RC Firefighters Emerald Society, 1930, at Valley Cottage, with Pres Matt DeGennaro
- RCVFA Next Meeting.7:30 PM at Thiells, with Pres Evan Humphrey, Bring a Buddy or Future New Member

**Wed, Feb 11**

**Fri, Feb 13****Future Events**

**Wed, Feb 18**

- RCVFA Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 PM, at Blauvelt, with Pres Eleanor DeGraw

**Thur, Feb 19**

- RC Fire Chiefs Assoc, 7:30 PM, at Nanuet, with Pres Chris Kear

**Wed, Feb 25**

- RCVFA Brd of Dir, 7:30 PM, 6-100 Hillcrest, with Chairperson Frank Bifulco

**Thur, Feb 26**

- Fire Advisory Board, 7:30 PM, @FTC, with Chairman Frank Bifulco

**Sun, Mar 1**

- RC Fire Chiefs, Annual Old Timers Dinner, 1300hrs at the Haverstraw Elks Club, Haverstraw, NY.

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

Thanks to Sheryl Rose and Chuck Larkin

Please email Sheryl Rose with any Fire Department news, dates of events, fundraisers, etc. [SherylERose58@gmail.com](mailto:SherylERose58@gmail.com)

**Garnerville, NY 10923**  
**Po Box 16**  
**RCFA TRUMPET**



**FROM THE  
FIRE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE**



### **Choices, Chances & Changes: The Heart of Volunteering**

In every community, the volunteer fire department stands as a symbol of courage, sacrifice, and unity. Behind all the flashing lights and sirens are everyday individuals who make a choice- a choice to serve, protect and give back without any expectations in return.

That single choice opens the door to many chances: the chance to learn lifesaving skills, welcome a second family and to make a significant difference in the moments that truly matter. Volunteer firefighters do not just respond to emergencies, they will show up at 3 am, in the middle of a storm, because they know someone's life just might depend on it.

And through those choices and chances, change happens. Not just in the lives that are saved but in the strength of the community they build. They change the way neighbors see one another. They change fear and hope. And quite often, they can change themselves. Growing in resilience, leadership traits and compassion.

The path of a volunteer firefighter is not always easy. However, it is meaningful. In our fire service, choices spark commitment, chances create opportunity and changes shape the future. Even if just at one call at a time.