



Vol. Fire Police

All the news that impacts your community and your world.

SPRING 2026

News

Honoring **Clarence Sphor and Past President Bob Beamish**



Clarence Spohr
passed away on December 9, 2025.
He was born in 1943.



Robert D. "Bob" Beamish
passed away on February 2, 2026.
He was born in 1937.





Spring Newsletter

Next issue: Summer 2026 - all articles are to be submitted
to the Editor by **June 15th, 2026**

All articles are to be sent to **duerr.richard@yahoo.com** or
mailed to **21 Second Street, Camden, NY 13316-1307**

**No ads or articles are to go to the printer.
They will NOT accept them.**

Newsletter Ad *Rates*

FULL PAGE 7.5 X 10" **\$150.00**

HALF PAGE 7.5 X 4.6" **\$75.00**

QUARTER PAGE 3.6 X 4.6" **\$50.00**

BUSINESS CARD 2.3 X 3.6" **\$25.00**

All ads are per issue pricing. Please send all ads to
duerr.richard@yahoo.com. Please indicate Vol Fire Police News
on the subject line, or mail photo ready artwork to
Richard Duerr, 21 Second St., Camden, NY 13316-1307.

Make all checks payable to VFPASNY

**VFPASNY
COMMITTEES
2025-2026**

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All 9 Region Chaplains

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Dorothy Brown

Mark Dinkelacker

And All past Presidents

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Thomas With

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Gary Hunt

Dorothy Brown

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Dan Franchese

John Henninger

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Timothy Scrom

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Dorothy Brown

Mark Dinkelacker

and All past presidents

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Dorothy Brown

Mark Dinkelacker

Richard Duerr

50TH YEAR CERTIFICATE

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(Chair)**

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Dorothy Brown

Norm Davis

Joan Rusin

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jwwicks13@aol.com

Juan Guzman

Barbara Fischer

Phyllis Dinkelacker



From the President:

I hope everyone had a nice summer and had quality time with family and friends.

Since our last newsletter, we kicked off our events on August 29th with our virtual Training. The topics were informative – NYS Sheriff’s Yellow Dot & Blue envelope programs and Lithium Ion Battery incident handling. For those not able to attend, you might want to go to the “NYS Sheriff’s Association” website for information on their two programs. This training was led by Bruno Semon and we thank him for his time and talents.

We also had a successful Fall meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY on October 25th - All went well with the event and the accommodations were excellent for those in attendance. We had two excellent speakers that presented “National Grid – First Responder Beware Electrical Safety” and “Dealing with Public Relations & Media for Fire Police.” Both training sessions were geared toward our role as Fire Police Officers to identify and handle these situations. We thank instructors Tom With and Arthur Hunsinger for their time and talents as well. The following items and future events were approved by the membership during this meeting:

- Virtual Zoom Training - topic Fire Police Refresher Course Wednesday, January 28, 2026 given by Suffolk County Fire Service Academy state certified instructors
- Tom With Training Seminar – March 21, 2026 at the Fuller Road FD in Albany. Details elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Spring Membership meeting – April 11, 2026 to be located in the Albany area. Details elsewhere in this newsletter with form on page 13.
- Annual Convention- May 14-17, 2026 to be located in Niagara Falls. Details elsewhere in this newsletter.
- Summer Virtual Training – Time and Topic(s) to be determined.
- Fall Membership Meeting – October 24, 2026 voted to be in the Utica area. Please save the date.
- New Region 8 Director has been appointed. We welcome Kendall Stanley to our Board of Directors. His contact information is now listed under Region 8 in this Newsletter.
- Created a new Meeting/Convention Committee led by FVP Dot Brown and will have a minimum of 1 representative from each region to locate and setup meeting sites for Spring & Fall Meetings and Annual Convention as well as working with Training Committee to secure topics and instructors for these events. If you would like to be involved on this committee, please contact Dot or your

regional director to be added to this committee.

- We had our second reading of the bylaw changes submitted by the Bylaw Committee at the Kingston convention without questions and will be voted on at the Spring Membership Meeting.

To offset the increasing operational costs to our organization and keep our annual dues at the current levels, we are continuing the annual 50/50 program which was approved at the convention in Kingston. This program has been successful to our treasury the last 2 years, and will once again be our major fundraiser to assist in achieving our goals for 2026. The program is in two parts as follows:

1. For members that pay their own dues - Included in the mailing of your 2026 annual dues invoice there were two (2) 50/50 tickets. We ask that you sell them and return the stubs and money, along with your annual dues money to our Membership Secretary, Juan Guzman (contact information for Juan is on your invoice). If you would like to help us further and sell additional tickets, please contact me at cell/text (516) 754-2058 or e-mail jwwicks13@aol.com. Your Regional Director (contact information is in this newsletter) will also have a supply of tickets if that would be more convenient for you.

2. For members that your Company/Department pays your dues - Please see your Regional Director or contact me (both as stated above) to be a part of this program and for tickets to buy or sell. The stubs and money for these tickets will be returned to me at 13 Ninth Street, Carle Place, NY 11514.

We need everyone’s participation in this program to make it a success!

In closing, we need You, our members, to fill open positions or help on a committee and strengthen our organization. Many hands make light work and it is important for the future of the VFPASNY. If you are interested in assisting with your time and talents, please reach out to your Director or an Officer! Remember, the weather is changing and we must dress accordingly to the conditions you are going into for your safety.

I hope everyone and your families had a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving, Holiday Season and New Year!!

Enjoy and be safe!!

Jon Wicks
President, VFPASNY



Region 5 Report

Greetings from Area 5 (Western New York)

There are many things going on in the state and in Region 5. I am in the process of developing a FaceBook page for Region 5. I hope to have it up and running soon. This way I'm in hopes of being able to provide information from the state and counties in a more expedient way to members and county associations in Region 5.

I'd like to start off with training. This may be redundant but here is what's coming up: in 2026, Suffolk County Fire Men's Association Fire Police, Fire Police Zoom Refresher Training on January 28th at 7PM. If this is anything like the other Zoom classes that were provided by Suffolk County it should be good. We had approximately 27 individuals from this area participate. I would hope more would make themselves available to this opportunity.

On May 14 through May 16, 2026, the annual VFPASNY convention will be held in Niagara Falls (Western edge of Region 5). The Niagara County Fire Police have been working hard to put on a great program.



On November 9th, Niagara County held their elections. Congratulations to all the new officers.

County Activities: The following counties have recently held election of officers: on November 6th, Monroe County elected and sworn in and new slate of officers.

In closing, I intend to get to all the Fire Police Associations in the 13 Counties of Region 5 to the best of my ability. If you have any further information please forward it to me. Please also forward your county information and photos.

Respectfully,

M. David Fairley
Region 5 Director

Region 6 Report

The Central Northern Volunteer Fire Police Association continues to meet bi-monthly with limited membership attendance. Much information is shared with those present and we have much discussion about the state of fire police.

Members not in attendance still receive much of the information through regular email communication throughout the year. We have also had consistent VFPASNY representation at funeral and memorial services for our fallen brothers and sisters of the fire police.

Several of the counties in Region 6 have healthy county associations addressing local concerns. Although we have several members consistently attending VFPASNY meetings and training sessions, the region lacks members with the available time or interest to aggressively promote the association and improve our standing.

From those of us working to better the stance of fire police in New York State, we ask that you share this newsletter with others that have not joined VFPASNY. The VFPASNY.com website includes a membership application, along with forms and information on many aspects of fire police. If you have the time, please consider attending meetings, becoming an officer at the various levels of VFPASNY, and helping to improve the strength of our cause.

Wishing everyone a safe and joyous holiday season and a safe winter.

Respectfully,

Bob Lighthall
Region 6 Director
Robert.Lighthall34@gmail.com



The Chaplain's Corner..

Something to Ponder this Winter

By Chief Chaplain Gene Preston

It was good seeing everyone at our Fall meeting at Troy, NY. As another busy year winds down, and for this issue of Chaplain's Corner, I want to toss out to you readers something to ponder this winter. We look back at 2025 and wonder if we are any farther ahead, any better off, any smarter than a year ago. We are living in a world of countless experiences, and we have conflicting approaches to our spirituality and beliefs. This brings us to one of my most admired individuals, renowned professor, character and ethics champion, Michael Josephson who has written the following.

The Paradox of Our Time

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints; we spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get angry too quickly, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too seldom, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor. We've conquered outer space, but not inner space; we've done larger things, but not better things. We've learned to rush, but not to wait; we have higher incomes, but lower morals; we have more food, but less appeasement; we build more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication.

And so, as we hunker down for another New York State winter, let us ponder all this and something which we call life. Trust life, and it will teach you, in joy and in sorrow, all you need to know. Our Heavenly Father encourages us to place our cares and worries in His hands, that we may experience more fully the peace He came to give.

Blessings and peace to all as this issue of News takes us into the holiday season. We have much to be thankful for. Blessed holidays and be kind to everyone.

Gene





**Volunteer Fire Police Association of the
State of New York presents the
2026
Annual Thomas With
Fire Police Training Seminar**

March 21, 2026

8:00 AM Registration / Coffee, Donuts, Bagels / 8:45 AM Intros / 9:00 AM 1st Speaker

Fuller Road Fire Department

1342 Central Avenue, Colonie, NY 12205 (Albany County)

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MORNING SESSION

**“Fire Police Refresher Safety”, Presenter Chief Anthony Sege, Woodgate FD (Oneida Co.),
Current NYS Fire Police Instructor, Class Length – 3 Hours**

AFTERNOON SESSION

**“Traffic Incident Management Overview”, NYSDOT Statewide TIMS Steering Committee,
Presenter Steve Bornt, Disaster Preparedness Rep., Emergency Transportation Operations,
NYSDOT, and Statewide Committee Co-Chair Thomas With**

“Fire Investigations – How Can You Help”, Presenter of OFPC Investigations Branch

**“Update on Current Legislation, TIMS, Fire Police Safety PPE”, Presenter Colonie
Emergency Services Committee Operations CAR 8, Thomas With**

CERTIFICATES handed out at approximately 3:30 PM

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Registration Form is in our latest News Magazine and on our vfpasny.com website!

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**The Website also has the Holiday Inn Express LINK to reserve your room at the \$117.00 rate!
Tax-Exempt, use appropriate Tax Form depending on the Credit Card being used:
Tax Form #ST-119 or #ST-129.**

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Any questions, please contact Seminar Co-Chairs:

Tom With: tomwith@hotmail.com / Dick Duerr: duerr.richard@yahoo.com

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**The 2026 Seminar will be the third of three Seminars held outside
the NYS Fire Academy at Montour Falls. The Academy is currently undergoing renovations.**

The Annual Thomas With Fire Police Training & Education Seminar

MARCH 21, 2026

Volunteer Fire Police Association of the State of New York

Host: Fuller Road Fire Dept., 1342 Central Ave., Colonie, NY 12205

8:00 AM Registration / Coffee, Donuts, Bagels / 8:45 AM Intros / 9:00 AM 1st Speaker

YOUR NAME (Last, First, MI)	NAME of Fire Dept. or Company:
Home Address - New Address? ___ Yes	Address
City State Zip	City State Zip
Mobile OR Daytime Phone #	FD Phone # FD Email &/or Fax #
Your Email Address	PRINT Name & Title: Head of Agency
VFPASNY Member # (Reg. & Meal = \$35.00)	SIGNATURE - Head of the Agency

Non Member: _____ Registration and Meal: \$50.00

CHECKS Payable to: "VFPASNY" (VFPASNYtreas@gmail.com or Phone/Text: (518) 322-6995)

**Mail Registration form & Payment to: Phyllis Dinkelacker, Treasurer
17 N. Vernon St.
Athens, NY 12015**

**All registration forms MUST be received by March 05, 2026 - NO LATE Registration accepted!
ABSOLUTELY NO WALK-INS and NO REFUNDS for NO SHOWS**

Hotel Rooms available for overnight accommodations:

#1. Holiday Inn Express Albany --16 Wolf Road, Colonie ---- (518) 459-3600 Rate: \$117.00 Tax Exempt: FD Credit Card, use Tax Form #ST-119. Personal Credit Card, use Tax Form #ST-129. CALL or use HOTEL GROUP LINK: <https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=ALBWO& PMID =99801505&GPC=A9A&cn=no&adjustMonth=false&showApp=true&monthIndex=00>

#2. SpringHill Suites Marriott Alb/Colonie -- 8 California Ave, Colonie - (518) 724-7999 Rate: Check their Website, or CALL, for current room rate. (State Rate Not Available)

Want to be a Member please contact: Juan Guzman, Membership Sec. (917) 566-5016 or vfpnysmem@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER FIRE/POLICE ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE of NY

Crowne Plaza, 7001 Buffalo Ave, Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Lodging / Meal Reservation Form

LODGING / MEAL PACKAGES

Package Sgl Inc Tax / Sgl tax ex Dbl Inc Tax / Dbl Tax Ex

3 Night \$558.94 / \$522.00 \$787.88 / \$714.00

2 Night \$392.28 / \$363.00 \$564.56 / \$506.00

1 Night \$186.26 / \$172.00 \$262.52 / \$234.00

Package rates are quoted per room, per stay

Package rates include all taxes, fees & gratuities

To claim Tax Exemption, this form must be accompanied by your organization's check or credit card and the corresponding NYS Tax Exemption Certificate ST119

The 3 Night Package includes: 3 nights lodging in a standard room on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch and buffet dinner on Friday, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch and Banquet dinner on Saturday, buffet breakfast on Sunday and applicable taxes, fees and gratuities.

The 2 Night Package includes: 2 nights lodging in a standard room on Friday and Saturday nights, buffet dinner on Friday, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch and Banquet dinner on Saturday, buffet breakfast on Sunday and applicable taxes, fees and gratuities.

The 1 Night Package includes: 1 night lodging in a standard room on Saturday night, the Banquet dinner on Saturday, buffet breakfast on Sunday, all applicable taxes, fees and gratuities.

Room Only Packages are not available. Package Rates for Triple/Quad Occupancy – Contact Hotel Sales Dept

PAYMENT FOR LODGING/MEAL PACKAGE:

To confirm your reservation, PAYMENT IN FULL is required with this form. Payment can be made with a check, credit card or cash.

Check # _____

Credit Card # _____

Name on Credit Card _____

Expiration Date/Security Code _____

Amount of Payment _____

**** Checks should be made payable to Crowne Plaza ****

Guest Name: _____

Fire Department Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Guestroom Occupancy (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

Single/1 Person _____ Double/2 ppl _____

If more than 1 guest in room, please list roommate below:

Roommate: _____

SATURDAY BANQUET MEAL CHOICES

Please indicate entrée choices/counts for Saturday Banquet

_____ Filet of Sirloin in Demi Glaze Sauce

_____ French Breast of Chicken in Rosemary Demi Glaze

_____ Grilled Bone in Pork Chop with Apple Chutney

_____ Vegetarian Option of the Chef's Choice

Lodging Not Required. Please sign: _____

COMMUTER MEALS/guests not staying overnight (per person/day)

Breakfast \$27.06/day incl Tax () Friday () Saturday () Sunday

Breakfast \$22.00/day Tax Ex () Friday () Saturday () Sunday

Lunch \$29.60/day incl tax () Friday () Saturday

Lunch \$27.00/day Tax Ex () Friday () Saturday

Dinner Friday () \$39.36 Incl Tax / () \$32.00 Tax Ex

Saturday Banquet () \$49.20 Incl Tax / () \$40.00 Tax Ex

** Please indicate Saturday Banquet Meal selection above**

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL PAYMENT/GUEST INFO ABOVE

FULL PAYMENT IS REQUIRED WITH THIS FORM FOR COMMUTER MEALS. PLEASE SEE PAYMENT SECTION ABOVE.

GUESTROOMS, Included in the Packages

Traditional rooms have 2 Queen Beds (majority of the hotel) or 1 King bed. Room type requests are based on availability and cannot be guaranteed. King Jacuzzi Suites are subject to availability at an additional \$50 plus tax and 9% destination fee/day.

Handicap Accessible room needed? _____

Special requests _____

Check in is 4pm / Check out is 11am

FEATURES of our Hotel:

Guestroom amenities include a mini fridge, individual serve coffee maker and complimentary wireless internet. Hotel has a large indoor heated pool, lounge, restaurant/bar on site and fitness center.

PARKING is complimentary for all guests attending this event.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Reservation requests should be received by the Hotel by April 14, 2026.

Reservations requests received after this date are subject to availability.

CANCELLATIONS must be received in writing by April 28, 2026

Cancellations received after this date will not be refunded.

Telephone reservations/internet bookings will **NOT** be accepted.

Emailed reservation forms must be completed and include a major credit card. This will be processed for payment in full no later than April 30, 2026.

Reservations will be guaranteed from date of arrival to date of departure. Credit will not be given for early departure or any missed meals.

Hotel is completely **NON-SMOKING**. A \$250.00 fee will be charged to any guest smoking in their guestroom.

SHOULDER DATES: Guestroom rates for arrival prior to May 14, 2026 or for departure after May 17, 2026 will be accepted at the Rate of \$110.00 plus tax and destination fee, based on availability.

CONFIRMATIONS: Confirmation of your reservation will be emailed or mailed using the information on this form.

PLEASE SIGN TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ABOVE:

Any questions, contact:

Denise Peacock, Director of Sales at (716) 299-0344 ext 2241

dpeacock@crowneplazaniarafalls.com

THE VOLUNTEER FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

REVISED 05/10/25

To join our Association, fill out the form below and enclose your check for **\$15.00*** made out to **VFPASNY**

RETURN TO: Juan Guzman, VFPASNY Membership Secretary

2 Hawk Nest Lane

Wallkill, NY 12589

Telephone: 845-566-5016

Email: MemSecVFPASNY@outlook.com or VFPNYSmem@gmail.com

County & Region _____

Name: (Please Print) _____ Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Fire Dept. / Company: _____ NYS Code: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Fire Chief's Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Are you an active member of your Dept. /Co.? Yes: _____ No: _____ Title: _____

Is the Dept. or Company paying for your dues? Yes: _____ No: _____

VFPASNY by-laws require you must be a Fire Police Member or an Associate Member of your Dept. /Co./Dis. to join.

Declaring that this information is correct, I hereby apply for membership.

Your Signature: _____

An Officer of the above Firematic unit must certify this application.

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the above applicant is an active member in good standing with our Fire Dept./Co./Dis.

Signature of Dept/Co. Officer: _____ Title: _____

A Director or Member of this Association in good standing needs to sponsor you.

Sponsor: _____ ID # _____

It is the member's responsibility to make sure his / her dues are paid by January each year. When the dues are paid a membership card or sticker will be mailed to you or your Department/Company. Publications & communications are mailed to each member address on file, **your mailing address and phone number must be kept up to date at all times to ensure you receive communications.** Thank You for applying to our Association.

For office use only: Membership Secretary verification for completeness & accuracy: _____

Application fee enclosed \$ _____ cash / MO / (P)(D) check# _____

Membership Assigned # _____ Date: _____ Notes: _____