

ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY
392 CREEK ROAD
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12601

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF: March 24, 2026

The March 24, 2026 meeting of the Association was called to order at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was held at Pleasant Valley Fire District.

Those in attendance were:

Cathy Gallinger	Fairview	Anthony Martino	Hughsonville
Kyle Pottenburgh	New Hackensack	Bill Geerlings	PVFD
Robert Boyles	Wassaic	Lou Gallo	Roosevelt
Jim Albrecht	PVFD	Rich Dore	Arlington
Ray Davis	Hyde Park	Jeff Cady	PVFD
Sharon Forbes	Rombout	Gary VanVoorhis	Rombout
Richard Howard	Amenia	Kyle Mulkins	West Clinton
Bill Muller	Rombout	Kevin Fierro	East Clinton
Barry Sanel	Kent	Vincent Galvin	Hughsonville
Jim Doxsey	Fairview	Brian Whalen	Wassaic
Tim Meester	Unionvale	Phil Van Itallie	Arlington
Andy Murphy	Amenia	Dave Alfanso	DCER
Matt Cady	DCER	Dave McGhee	Millerton
Dave VanderBogart	Millerton	Norman Hill	Kent
Brian Kelly	Dover	John Steele	Glenham
William Beale	DCER	Bob Sartory	DCER

Roll call showed 33 present, representing 17 Fire Districts.

Salute to the Flag:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Boyles followed by a Moment of Silence for our deceased members.

Welcome:

Jim Albrecht welcomed us and reviewed emergency exits

Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of January 27, 2026, meetings were approved on a motion by Bill Geerlings seconded by Vinnie Galvin and Approved by all present.

Speaker for the Night:

Susan Dehann from East Clinton accompanied by Tim Meester from Unionvale gave Narcan training and spoke about supporting first responder mental health. She gave Cathy documents to send out to memberships.

Matt Cady – D.C. Weekend had 130 attendees from 18 fire districts. There were 10 class options and only 1 canceled for low signup. Matt thanked the Association of Fire Districts of D.C. for their donation along with other sponsors.

Dave Alfonso - gave a presentation on Volunteer Fire Service Challenges

Treasurer's Report:

Bank balances

Checking \$15,862.32

Savings \$257.02

CD \$ 11,364.76

Motion by: Ray Davis seconded by Kyle Pottenburgh that the Treasurer's report be Accepted
Approved by all present.

SICKNESS PAST / PRESENT MEMBERS:

COMMUNICATIONS:

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Fire Advisory Board** – Richard Howard, Mark Lievermann, Lou Gallo
- **Oversight Committee** – DeWitt Sagendorph no report
- **EMS** – Report from
- **DCER William Beale Commissioner** –
 - Fire training bldg. is on schedule the footings have been poured
 - Partnership with East Fishkill and New Hackensack is moving forward
 - 25th anniversary of 911 this year. We will have an event at DCER hopefully in September
 - Tim Darcy from the 911 center is retiring after 27 yrs we are doing a walk out on the 27th at 3:30 pm
 - NDP branding goes away April 1, 2026
- **State Association Report** – John Steele
 - Went to lobby day on March 11, we need to speak in a unified voice
 - Commissioner training April 25th in Glenham
 - 1910.156 is being reworked
 - October 21-23 is the training in Saratoga

- **Fireman's Museum**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be April 28, 2026, at East Fishkill dinner at 6:30 pm our meeting at 7pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

- There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m. on a motion by Sharon Forbes and seconded by Rich Dore Approved by all present.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Gallinger, Secretary

2026 Meeting Dates and Locations

January 27, 2026 – Dutchess County Emergency Response rm 113

March 24, 2026 – Pleasant Valley

April 28, 2026 – East Fishkill

June 23, 2026 – Wassaic

September 22, 2026- Hughsonville

October 27, 2026 - Rombout

November 24, 2026 – New Hackensack

**No Meetings in the months of
February – May - July – August – December**

From: [Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York](#)
To: [O'Neill, Renee](#)
Subject: Fire District Affairs April & May 2026
Date: Friday, April 24, 2026 4:51:28 PM



Vol. 72 No. 22

FIRE DISTRICT AFFAIRS

April 2026 - May 2026

ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

"Serving Fire District Officers Through Education & Legislation"



Fire Apparatus Industry Faces Congressional Review and Antitrust Lawsuits

Fire departments and municipalities are being forced to pay **much more, wait much longer, and accept greater financial uncertainty** for essential emergency vehicles, with growing concern that **industry consolidation and lack of competition may be major drivers of the problem** rather than just normal economic pressures.

[Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Chapter Amendments to 2025 Legislation on Comprehensive County Emergency Medical Service Plans

Recent legislation in New York requires counties to take a more structured approach to emergency medical services (EMS) planning. In 2025, Governor Kathy Hochul signed a law mandating the development of Comprehensive County EMS Plans, followed by 2026 amendments refining that requirement.

[Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Rural Ambulance Service Task Force Issues Report

The New York State Rural Ambulance Service Task Force [RASTF] issued its report in March of 2026. In the report the RASTF reminded us of its mission:

The New York State Rural Ambulance Task Force was established with the mission to research, identify, and recommend solutions to the challenges of EMS in rural communities. This task force represents a pivotal stride towards ensuring equitable access to emergency medical care across the state. Through comprehensive assessment of both immediate hurdles and long-term needs of rural EMS, the task force aims to pave the way for a more resilient and responsive EMS system in our rural communities.

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JOE BADALA
PRESIDENT

DAVID DENNISTON
1ST VICE PRESIDENT

RALPH RAYMOND
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

DONNA MARANO
SECRETARY

KEVIN FRANK
TREASURER

DONALD CORKERY
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

JOSEPH FRANK
COUNSEL

800-520-9594

WWW.AFDSNY.ORG

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Fire District Records Retention

Fire districts are required to maintain and retain their records in accordance with the LGS-1 Records Retention Schedule promulgated by the State Archives. As part of the process a fire district board of fire commissioners will pass a resolution adopting the schedule as its official record retention guideline. The fire district secretary will act as the fire district's record retention officer and retain the records in accordance with the requirements of the schedule. To the extent that the treasurer has possession of financial records of the fire district the treasurer must retain those records in accordance with the requirements of the schedule.

[Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

[Fire District Records Retention](#)

[Criminal Convictions and their Impact on Membership and Employment](#)

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Criminal Convictions and Their Impact on Membership and Employment

Fire districts and departments in New York must navigate complex legal requirements when evaluating applicants or current members with criminal convictions. By law, only arson convictions automatically disqualify a person from fire service membership or holding a fire district office. Other convictions require individualized consideration under Article 23-A of the Correction Law, which mandates a balancing test to weigh the applicant's rehabilitation, the nature and severity of the offense, time elapsed, age at conviction, and public safety concerns.

[Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

Procedure and Forms to Expend Money From A Capital Reserve Account

Boards of Fire Commissioners frequently ask about the proper procedure for expending funds from a **capital reserve fund** established under **General Municipal Law §6-g**. The statute sets forth a clear process to ensure transparency, accountability, and compliance with permissive referendum requirements.

[Click Here to Continue Reading](#)

New Cyber Security Incident Reporting Requirements

In the October-November 2025 issue of Fire District Affairs we advised that laws related to cyber security had been amended. We advised that the new laws would apply to fire districts related to cyber security reporting and that new cyber security awareness training requirements were not mandatory for fire districts.

[Click Here To Continue Reading](#)

2026 Edward "Ned Carter" Scholarship Winners Announced

The Officers and Directors of AFDSNY are excited to announce that four outstanding high school seniors from across the state have been awarded college scholarships this year through the AFDSNY Edward "Ned" Carter Scholarship Program, as selected by the Scholarship Committee and the Board of Directors. We are proud of the academic accomplishments and the contributions these students have made to their communities, which earned them these well-deserved scholarships. The following scholars are the recipients of this year's awards:

Annabella Sobrino
Town of Oswego Fire District
Regions: I, II, III, and X

Samuel Winans
Apalachin Fire District
Regions: IV and VI

Matthew Day
South Plattsburgh Fire District
Regions: V and XI

Gavin Plume
Setauket Fire District
Region VII, VIII and IX

[Click Here to Read their Bio's and More About the Scholarship](#)

AFDSNY Fire Commissioner Training Schedule for 2026



The officers, directors and staff of the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York have prepared a training program for the fire commissioners, fire district officers, employees, fire department officers and members of our member districts and departments for 2026. A key element of this program is our Fire Commissioner Training Program which provides training mandated by statute for fire commissioners that will begin to serve terms in 2026 after their election, appointment, re-election, or re-appointment.

[Click Here for Schedule](#)

[Click Here to Visit AFDSNY to schedule your training session!](#)

AFDSNY Mini Summit in Cheektowaga At U-Crest Fire District: May 15th and 16th

Mini Summit Cheektowaga
Day and a half of training for Fire District Officers
1049 French Road
Cheektowaga NY 14227
[For More information and the Agenda, Click Here](#)



[Click Here to Register Today!](#)



AFDSNY 2026 Annual Meeting and Vendor Expo

The Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York will host our 82nd Annual Meeting and Vendor Expo at the Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, New York, from Thursday, October 8, 2026, through Saturday, October 10, 2026. Kindly reserve these dates on your calendar. We are progressing with additional preparations for our October 2026 conference and encourage you to keep an eye on our website at https://www.afdsny.org/attendee_information.php for updates regarding this event.

If your fire district has suffered the loss of an officer since our last Annual Meeting, please submit the honoree form on our website [link on the front page at <https://afdsny.org/> under 2026 Memorial Honoree Submission] so that he or she can be properly remembered at the Memorial Service held at the start of the Annual Meeting.

AFDSNY Seeking Directors for Regions 2, 4 and 11

A recent amendment to the AFDSNY By-Laws has expanded representation, creating additional Director positions in Regions 2, 4, and 11.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Secretary's Letter

[Click Here to Read a copy of the Secretary's Letter](#)

SUBMIT CONTENT TO FIRE DISTRICT AFFAIRS

Fire District Affairs is the newsletter of this Association. As an officer of a member fire district or fire department you are welcome to submit content and information that you would like to share with your fellow members for consideration by the Editor. The content and information you share may find its way into a future issue of *Fire District Affairs* or may be referred to the Association website master if the officers of the Association feel the website to be a better outlet. If you wish to submit content, information, or comments on the newsletter, please submit same by email to the Secretary-Treasurer who in turn will forward the same to the *Fire District Affairs* Editor.

Not all suggestions for information and content will result in a newsletter article or the insertion of website content because of space limitations, but we can assure you that all suggestions will be considered and are appreciated.

Please note that the next issue of *Fire District Affairs* will be the June-July 2026 issue and any content or information for that issue should be submitted for consideration by May 5, 2026.



April 29, 2026

Chief Kangas

Arlington Fire District

11 Burnett Boulevard

Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

RE: RESIGNATION- Cristopher A Diaz

Dear Chief Kangas,

Effective May 5th, 2026 I will be resigning from my position as a Firefighter/ Paramedic at the Arlington Fire District.

Sincerely,



Cristopher A Diaz

RECEIVED
APR 29 2026
Arlington Fire District

Robert Greenlese



April 30th, 2026

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter as formal notice of my resignation from my position as Fire Equipment Mechanic with Arlington Fire Company. My last day of employment will be **May 15th, 2026**.

Please let me know how I can assist during this transition period to ensure a smooth handoff of my responsibilities.

Thank you again for the opportunity and support.

Sincerely,

Robert Greenlese

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Greenlese".

RECEIVED
MAY 01 2026
Arlington Fire District

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

It is hereby agreed by and between the Arlington Fire District (hereinafter referred to as "DISTRICT" and the Arlington Professional Firefighter's Association, IAFF Local 2393 (hereinafter referred to as "ASSOCIATION") as follows:

- 1) Firefighter Jason Fisch has previously filed with the fire district the required "Notice of Intent to Retire" per the CBA, indicating he would retire in July 2028.
- 2) Article #28 of the CBA states, "If a member leaves before the "Notice of Intent to Retire" stated, the member will not receive any additional payments above what they have already received."
- 3) The district originally denied the request to retire as allowed by the contract. Due to the ability to recruit and hire additional staff for replacements that were not anticipated, the District is willing to make an exception to allow Jason Fisch to retire, effective May 27, 2026. His last date worked will be May 24, 2026.
- 4) Jason Fisch will get the payout of his current time at his current rate of pay for the time he has on the books on his last day as he otherwise would upon retirement. (Sick leave is to be prorated as per the contract.)
- 5) The member shall retain all benefits granted to retirees upon retirement.
- 6) Upon execution of this agreement both parties agree to never claim this as a past practice and that this agreement shall not be precedent setting.
- 7) This agreement is subject to approval by all parties.

Dated: April 27, 2026

Arlington Fire District

Arlington Professional Firefighters
Association, IAFF 2393

By: _____
Richard Dore
Chairman

By: _____
Christopher Weiner
President

By: _____
Jason Fisch
Firefighter

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

It is hereby agreed by and between the Arlington Fire District (hereinafter referred to as "DISTRICT" and the Arlington Professional Firefighter's Association, IAFF Local 2393 (hereinafter referred to as "ASSOCIATION") as follows:

1. Article #40, INCOMING TRANSFERS AND RESIGNATION/REINSTATEMENTS states that members under this article are subject to the following terms and conditions:

Article #14 (Salary and Rank Differential) - The minimum salary to be received shall be Step 2.

Article #25 (Vacations) Upon commencement of employment, the Member shall be entitled to second year vacation time, pro-rated for the remainder of the calendar year, Rounded up to the nearest month.

2. The District acknowledges staffing needs for paramedics at the present time. The District will allow incoming Transfer/Reinstatement, James Rogers, to start at Step 3 as outlined in Article #14 (Salary and Rank Differential) based on his experience as a NYS FF/Paramedic. Mr. Rogers will forgo the prorated vacation time as outlined in Article #25 (Vacations) through the end of the calendar year.
3. All other benefits as outlined in Article #40, INCOMING TRANSFERS AND RESIGNATION/REINSTATEMENTS shall be afforded as stated.
4. Upon execution of this agreement both parties agree to never claim this as a past practice and that this agreement shall not be precedent setting.
5. This agreement is subject to approval by all parties.

Dated: April 29, 2026

Arlington Fire District

Arlington Professional
Firefighters Association, IAFF
2393

By: _____
Richard Dore
Chairman

By: _____
Christopher Weiner
President

By: _____
James Rogers