

# Fire Chief's Council of Suffolk County, Inc.

The 293rd meeting of the Suffolk County Fire Chiefs' Council was held at the Montauk Fire Department on Friday, May 12, 2006. President Chris McKay called the meeting to order at 8:50 P.M.

**Flag salute** led by Sgt.-At-Arms Anthony LeFerrera.

**Invocation** offered by Father Dan Harris. Montauk Commissioner Tom Desk welcomed the Council and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Craig Zitek responded.

**Officers present** were President Chris McKay, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Craig Zitek, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Scott Thebold, Treasurer John Urevich, Sgt.-At-Arms Anthony LeFerrera, Corresponding Secretary Rick Van De Kieft, and Recording Secretary John Carney.

**Past Presidents** in attendance were Martin Albert, Don Corkery, Michael DeNicolo, Bob Holley, and Ed Walsh.

**Town Presidents/Officers** in attendance were Pres. Richard Vella – Babylon, Pres. John Carney - Islip, Ex. Pres. Jack Blaum – Brookhaven, Ex-Pres. Don Balbinder – Smithtown, and Pres. Ed Boyd – Southold.

## **GUESTS:**

Congressman Tim Bishop, Commissioner Joe Williams – Suffolk County FRES, Deputy Commissioner Brad Maier – Suffolk County FRES, Bel Pagdanganan – SC Director of Emergency Preparedness, Chief Tom Kost – Suffolk County Fire Academy, Deputy Chief Dick Stockinger – Suffolk County Fire Academy, SC Volunteer Firemen's Association – Anthony Sullo, Father Dan Harris.

Congressman Bishop welcomed all meeting attendees. He is honored to represent the volunteer fire service in Washington and he expressed his awe in the dedication, skill and commitment of our volunteer firefighters. He mentioned the Newsday series last year on the volunteer fire service and then during the Spring of 2006 the brush fires in Brentwood. Congressman Bishop said that this is the "real story" about our firefighters who give so selflessly of their time and effort and their families who support them. He is one of the 300 members of the Fire Caucus in Washington who works on making sure the money available for the Fire Grants program stays where it needs to be. The fire grant program is tough and very competitive but very valuable. In the First Congressional District, approximately \$600,000 of grant funding was given out as part of the Fire Grant Program. Congressman Bishop urged everyone to use his office as a resource and protector of the SC fire service.

## **MONTHLY PROGRAM:**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Correspondence:** No report.

## **Arson Task Force:** Dick Keller

SC FRES has a second arson canine, LP assigned to Fire Marshal Don Lynch. Training for the canine and its handler cost about \$40,000. This dog is weighed every week and follows strict weight policies by ATF. Cinder, the first arson canine, was recently recertified for the last time. Cinder is due to be retired in one year. Both dogs are an asset to the Arson Squad and to our firefighters. Dick Keller had the occasion to visit Father Dan in Pennsylvania. He is doing fairly well but is asking for support from the members of the SC Chiefs' Council to give Father Dan a call even for a couple of minutes to help lift up his spirits. Father Dan's phone number is (570) 645-6775.

## **Suffolk County Burn Center:**

The Burn Center has a full staff again and 8 beds. The Burn Center Recognition Day is 5/21 at 1:00 P.M. at the University Hospital of Stony Brook. KeySpan's annual Carnival Fundraiser to benefit the Burn Center will be held on 6/15 – 6/18 at KeySpan's headquarters in Hicksville. The Burn Center's annual fundraiser will be held on 8/25 at the Martha Clara's Vineyard in Southold. One person went to the Burn Center last month – a Nissequoque Fire Department Chief who is doing well.

## **FRES:** Commissioner Joe Williams

Commissioner Williams wanted to remind all SC departments to make sure that they send in their resolution accepting NIMS by 6/15 so that the County Executive can in turn send these in to the NYS Governor and then eventually to Washington. A Hurricane Drill is being planned for 6/2 with participation by Suffolk County, Nassau County, New York City, LIPA/KeySpan and the National Weather Service. A letter of invitation will be going to all fire departments next week asking your participation in the drill. The 800 MHz radios that were distributed to the fire departments will be tested during the drill. If your fire department wants to participate in the drill contact FRES. The Town of Islip will be conducting their own tabletop drill as part of the Hurricane Drill.

The County Executive and the EMS Committee are interviewing for a new EMS Medical Director. Dr. Alicandro will be vacating the position of Suffolk County's EMS Medical Director. There have been numerous but the county is having problems filling the position. Dr. Melvin Fritz has been selected but has not been appointed. He went before the FRES Commission and the Joint Chiefs' Council and will also be going before REMAC and REMSCO. The county is waiting for a feedback from the County Executive and

REMSCO and is anticipating that a decision will be made sometime next month.

Bel Pagdanganan discussed preparations being made on a county level in partnership with the towns for preparations for the upcoming hurricane season. These include agreements with food and water distributors, school bus companies, and environmental cleanup contractors to assist in debris clearance, among others. The county has also been working closely with the townships on special needs shelters, first responder shelters, and identifying evacuation routes for Suffolk County.

Ed Tully, County Fire Police Coordinator, discussed the mobilization plan for the county's fire-police volunteers. The fire-police will be assisting the SC Police Department and the Sheriffs' Office in evacuating residents. As part of the plan, fire-police volunteers who are given permission by their respective Departments, will be broken up into sectors and may be mobilized about 12 hours prior to storm arrival and assist in evacuation. There are 4 Public Information Officers (PIO) in the county. If your department has a designated Public Information Officer please send that information to Warren Horst, Chief Fire Marshal, FRES. FRES would like to work together with all the PIOs to get out information to the newspapers, take pictures, etc. Rick Van De Kieft asked who the County PIOs are. FRES will be sending out a letter to the Fire Chiefs' Council and to all Town Fire Chiefs' Council to introduce the county PIOs, their responsibilities, and their roles in providing support to Chiefs on the scene of incidents.

**Suffolk County Fire Academy:** Tom Kost  
The SC Fire Academy has a new website that everyone can check for the latest listing of classes. The new web address is [www.scfa-li.org](http://www.scfa-li.org). Quals for Firefighter I classes are scheduled on 6/24 SC Fire Academy. New Chiefs' Seminar at the SC Fire Academy is scheduled for 5/20. "Firefighter I Boot Camp" will be offered for firefighters for two straight weeks during the day and is designed for firefighters who are home from college. A final exam and hands on test will be given at the end of the course. On 7/8, a graduation will be held at the SC Fire Academy for firefighters who completed their Firefighter I classes within the last year. NIMS classes are being offered by the SC Fire Academy. NIMS courses can also be taken online. The SC Fire Academy is currently researching on methods to eliminate the smoke at the Flashover Simulator. A manufacturer is also putting together a scrubber which will be tested next month. If the scrubber works, it will be purchased and the simulator should go back in full operation.

**VEEB:** No representation.

**FRES Commission:** No representation.

**Suffolk County Chief's Golf Tournament:**

Mike Felice. The annual golf outing is scheduled for 9/25 with a 9:00 A.M. shotgun start at the Smithtown Landing Golf Club in Smithtown. This will be followed by a dinner at the St. James Substation on Woodlawn Avenue (St. James). Invitations to the foursomes will be sent out at the beginning start of June. The Hole Sponsorship forms will be sent out to all Suffolk County departments. Everyone's support is requested for our annual fundraiser.

**LIPA:** No representation.

**New York State Association of Fire Chiefs:**

Bob Holley

Bob Holley will be installed as President of the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs in June 2006. He expressed his appreciation for all the work that has been done by people like Ron Barz and Bobby Knight. B. Holley, together with the East Quogue Fire Department, also expressed his appreciation for all the support he received from everyone. He will be serving as only the third President of the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs who come from Suffolk County. He will be attending the various Town Chiefs' Council meetings to learn the Chiefs' concerns at every level. With regards to the NYS Fire Chiefs' Conference, hotel rooms in Lake George area are mostly booked already. If anyone has any problems with lodging, contact Bob Holley. Banquet tickets after the installation are all sold out. There will be a Presidential Party at the Fort William Henry Hotel from 9:00 P.M. – 12:00 Midnight right after the Installation Dinner. This will be a celebration for Suffolk County being represented again at the top level at the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs. Bob Holley thanked the County chiefs and various departments and individuals for their donation to hold this post-dinner celebration. Invitations are available with Bob Holley although they are not really needed to attend the celebration.

On 9/23 – 9/24, there will be a Joint Expo sponsored by Nassau, Suffolk, and New York State Fire Chiefs which will be similar to the Mega Show held in February. The Expo will be held in Hofstra University. Huge turnout of vendors is expected and admission fee is \$10 per person. One third of the profit from this show will go to the New York State Fire Chiefs Association. Senators Johnson (Suffolk) and Skelos (Nassau) were able to get a \$24,000 to fund the show which will pay for the use of Hofstra University and advertising bills. This will enable Nassau, Suffolk, and the New York State Fire Chiefs to be able to get a bigger portion of the profit from the show. He encouraged fire departments to send representatives next year to the Congressional Fire Districts Dinner to

increase the visibility of the fire service with our senators and congressional leaders.

The New York State Chiefs are producing "Save" certificates. If anyone has a documented case of anybody being saved by a member of your department with the use of a defibrillator, a certificate will be issued to the department and the individual. For applications, see Bob Holley.

Don Corkery – Checks from about 25 departments have been received for the post-dinner celebration (Fort William Henry Hotel) for Bob Holley. Letters have been sent via mail and fax addressed to the Department Chiefs regarding the celebration. Send your checks to Rick Van De Kieft. A suite at the Marine Village Inn will be used as the hospitality suite for the Suffolk County Fire Chiefs during the New York State Fire Chiefs' Conference.

**Radio Committee:** No representation.

**Political Action Committee:** Ronald Barz  
Sixty people from Suffolk County attended the Congressional Fire Services Dinner. It made quite an impact with Rep. Peter King when all 60 Suffolk County representatives visited his office. Topics of discussion during this meeting centered on Fire Act and Safer Grants. Meetings were also held with Congressman Steve Israel. If we want to get politicians on our side we need to visit them and take the effort to meet our local Congressmen to make an impact. It behooves us to support our Congressman.

**Legislation:** Bobby Knight

The New York State Assembly passed 13 bills – it was "firefighters' day" in Albany. If anyone has a question, contact Assemblyman Bob Sweeney. In the negotiations that the Assembly wanted to pass would have crimped the fire service. Two of New York State's highest awards were read off – "Firefighter of the Year" from FASNY, Rick Gimbl of Holbrook, and from the EMS side, Robert Freund, of Huntington. On 5/27, there will be a moment of silence for the National EMS Service at 0800 hours.

The Suffolk County Chiefs' Council expressed their appreciation for all the work that has been done by Bobby Knight

**Regional E.M.S. Council:** Ed Boyd

The appeal against the response protocol has finally been decided by the Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services. A protocol has been upheld. REMSCO's authority to implement the response protocol has been upheld. At their last meeting, REMSCO voted to implement the following timetable: each ambulance corps has to have their plan in place by 9/1 and fully operational by 1/1/07. In order to make this work, REMSCO will have another meeting for the active chiefs and commissioners on

June, July and August. Hopefully, the meetings will be held early enough during the year to give time for the departments who need to take into account the equipment they will need to adjust their budgets for 2007. If it is absolutely impossible to make the budget decisions and implement the protocol in time for the 1/1/07 implementation date, an extension procedure will be made available. An application for an extension can be made with REMSCO and decisions will be made on ad hoc basis. For the first time, REMSCO is talking to the county in removing the insurance that is given to each department that runs an ambulance if the department does not comply with the protocol. This was a new item discussed during the latest Response Subcommittee Meeting held on 5/4/06. It is important that every department be very attentive and pay close attention to this new protocol.

The protocols can be accessed at the REMSCO website at [www.suffolkremSCO.com](http://www.suffolkremSCO.com). A letter will be sent to all departments explaining the latest development on the new protocol. An invitation will also be sent to all departments on informational meetings that will be held.

**Scholarship:** Rick Van De Kieft

The Council has taken in over \$9,000 as of the last meeting. Checks in the amount of \$2,320 were turned over to the Treasurer on 5/12/06. Approximate receipts to date are over \$11,760. Expenses, including the Billy Goldfeder Seminar, were about \$19,000. The only expense left is the preparation of the certificates and mailing. There are only three fire districts that have not paid. The final report is expected to be given by the next meeting. Expected profit from this fund raising activity is about \$10,000. Permission is requested from the Council to pay for a room in Baltimore for Rick Van De Kieft and Ed Boyd to start looking into next year's fund raising activity. The Council may be able to get Berkner Hall at the Brookhaven National Lab (BNL) again next year for free. Use of this hall was granted through the BNL and efforts of Chief John Searing. The only cost for the use of this hall were the vendor fees of \$300.

**Wild Fire Task Force:** No representation.

**Chaplain:** No report

**Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Association:**  
No report.

**TOWN PRESIDENTS:**

**Babylon Township:** Rich Vella

Received a letter from Assemblyman Bob Sweeney regarding LOSAP. The state wants to be aware of our LOSAP and would like to set up a committee to discuss implementation of LOSAP. R. Vella will be meeting with Assemblyman Sweeney and will provide a report next time.

**Brookhaven Township:** Jack Blaum

The annual drill tournament is scheduled for 9/30 at the Firemen's Park in Ridge. Next meeting is Friday, 5/19 at the Blue Point Fire Department.

**East Hampton Township:** No representation.

**Huntington Township:**

No report.

**Islip Township:** John Carney

Elections were held last month. Results were: John Carney, President, Tom D'Arcangelo – First Vice Pres., Joe Badala – Second Vice Pres. Next meeting is Tuesday, 5/16 in Holbrook. The Newsday articles have been brought up during the last Town Chiefs' Council meetings. A request has been made to get together with the other presidents of the Town Chiefs' Council and talk about a home subscription cancellation all on the same day for a length of time. Request was made for the Suffolk County Fire Chiefs' Council to hold a discussion on this proposed move. The Town of Babylon Fire Chiefs' Council has backed up this move.

This request will be discussed at the Executive Board meeting to be held on 5/23.

**Peconic Chiefs:** No representation.

**Smithtown Township:** No report.

**Southampton Township:** No representation.

**Southold Township:** Ed Boyd

Will not be going to Fishers Island this year.

**Riverhead Township:** No representation.

**Suffolk County Volunteer Ambulance Association:**

No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No Old Business brought up.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

M/M/S/A to get a room for Baltimore for Rick Van De Kieft and Ed Boyd

M/M/S/A to spend \$2,000 for the Hospitality Room at the New York State Fire Chiefs' Conference in Lake George

Commissioner Williams presented a proclamation Suffolk County to Ex-Chief Don Corkery for 22 years of service as a County Fire Coordinator.

Burn Center Recognition Day is 5/21. M/M/S/A to donate \$250 from the SC Fire Chiefs' Council to be presented to the Burn Center on Recognition Day.

The Chiefs' Council congratulated Rick Gimbl for receiving the 2006 New York State Fireman of the Year Award.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** John Urevich

FF Benefit Fund.....\$5,014.46

Checking .....\$10,287.37

Money Market.....\$45,657.14

Total Assets:.....\$60,958.97

Bills:

Southern NY Volunteer Firemen's Association

Dues:.....\$60.00

M/M/S/A to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted and pay the bill received for \$60.00.

**GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Rick Van De Kieft informed the council that the next set of minutes will have a partial list of 4 chaplains. He suggested that the contact names and phone numbers for all 5 Chaplains should hopefully be ready for the next meeting in July. The Chaplains will be broken up into areas to assist the fire departments during funerals, etc.

The partial list of Chaplains include:

**Covering 5<sup>th</sup> Division:**

Senior Chaplain (Coordinator): Ex-Chief Richard Van De Kieft

(Mastic Fire Department)

Tel. No. (631) 399-2953

**Covering 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Divisions:**

Chaplain: Deacon Edward Billia

(Huntington Fire Department)

11 Stern Court

Huntington Station, New York 11746-1324

Tel. No. (631) 423-1319

Cell Phone (631) 748-3111

**Covering 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisions:**

Chaplain: James Hanly

(Dix Hills Fire Department)

37 Landview Drive

Dix Hills, New York 11746-5846

Tel. No. (631) 427-2641

**Covering 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Divisions:**

Chaplain: Father Daniel Harris

7 Wakefield Road

Hampton Bays, New York 11946

Tel. No. (631) 594-1321

Cell Phone (631) 484-6187

**Covering 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Divisions:**

*To Be Determined*

Ex-Chief Schnall of the Holbrook Fire Department recently went into surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.

**SGT.-AT-ARMS REPORT:**

Departments (28), Chiefs (8), Asst. Chiefs (44), Ex-Chiefs (40), Guests (8) Total Attendance: (100)

Dark Horse: 041301 and 041190

**BENEDICTION:** Rick Van De Kieft

Meeting Adjourned: 10:15 P.M.

Next Meeting: North Lindenhurst Fire Department

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**

President Chris McKay  
P.O. Box 2156  
Southampton, NY 11969  
Tel. 834-1540

1<sup>st</sup> VicePres. Craig Zitek  
P.O. Box 926  
Jamesport, NY 11947  
Tel. 722-8412

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. Scott Thebold  
14 Middle Island Blvd.  
Middle Island, NY 11953  
Tel. 484-7742

Rec. Sec. John Carney  
211 Locust Drive  
Bay Shore, NY 11706  
Tel. 445-8153

Treasurer John Urevich  
962 Ostrander Ave.  
Riverhead, N.Y. 11901  
Tel. 727-4561  
Beeper 557-4561

The next meeting of the  
**Fire Chief's Council  
of Suffolk County, Inc.**

will be held on

**July 14, 2006**

*at*

**North Lindenhurst  
Fire Department**

**Dinner 7:30 PM  
Meeting 8:00 PM**

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Sgt.-at- Arms  
Anthony La Ferrera  
104 Kime Avenue  
North Babylon, NY 11703  
Tel. 484-7917

Corr. Sec. Rick Van de Kieft  
35 Gores Dr.  
Mastic, N.Y. 11950  
Tel. 399-2953

**Council Meetings**

| <u>2006</u> | <u>Location</u>     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| July 14     | N. Lindenhurst F.D. |
| Sept. 8     | Copiague F.D.       |
| Nov. 10     | TBA                 |

**FIRE CHIEF'S COUNCIL  
OF SUFFOLK COUNTY, INC.  
P.O. BOX 2156  
SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. 11969**