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From the President's Pen...

Hope everyone is having an enjoyable and relaxing summer. Our association can't wait to meet on September 24th in Hillcrest New York. With some sad news unfortunately. Nick Gatti Sr. a past president has passed away. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and our members of Rockland County. While Covid is slowing down, We now have the Delta virus. Our association will continue to watch for the health and safety of our members as needed for any meetings and events.

Stay Safe

President Roy De Young Jr.

NJSFA CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 2021

The New Jersey State Firemen's Association convention will be in Wildwood, and it will be a 1-day affair. It will be on Friday September 17th and will be held at the Wildwood, NJ Convention Hall. The hours will be 9am to 3pm. All Delegates and Life Members will register, pick up Ballot Cards, vote, and then leave. You will be given credit for 2 sessions. Please check with your local Relief Secretary for the hours for your town to register and vote.

AWARDS NIGHT IN HILLCREST, NY

The following awards will be presented at the NJNY membership meeting to be held at the Hillcrest, NY FD. The address is 374 No. Main St., Hillcrest, NY 10977. Please make every effort to attend. Mask wearing is required.

The NJ & NY Presidential honoree for 2021 is Frank Gluckler in recognition of his dedicated service to the NJNYVFA and over 60 years of service to the Hillsdale NJ Fire Department.

The Past President award is presented to Peter Devries. congratulations and thank you for keeping the Association going throughout the pandemic.

The unit citation award is being presented to the Spring Valley Fire Department for their outstanding heroic rescue efforts on March 23, 2021. Congratulations Spring Valley.

The JOSEPH COSTELLO fireman of the year is being presented posthumously to Lt. JARED LLOYD for his heroic lifesaving rescue efforts on March 23, 2021. Jared was personally responsible for saving 6 trapped, helpless people. He became disoriented and ran out of air and issued a MAYDAY. The Spring Valley Fire Chief said that Jared Lloyd is responsible for saving the life of his brother Firefighter Eric Cich.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Due to unforeseen problems, Past President DeVries will be assisting Secretary Rosemary Weyer. Until further notice, ALL correspondence going to the association should be sent to BOTH Rosemary Weyer @ njecs@optonline.net and ALSO to Peter DeVries @ cfd257@optonline.net. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Remember Our Troops
Visit us at www.njnyvfa.org**

NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2021-2022

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

Membership Meetings-Last Friday of the Month

*Unless otherwise noted. All meetings start at 8:00 PM

2021		
July/August	NO MEETINGS HAVE A GREAT SUMMER	March 25 Rochelle Park FD 87 W. Passaic St., Rochelle Park, NJ 07662
September 24	Hillcrest Fire Co. 1 **MASKS REQUIRED** 374 North Main St., Hillcrest, NY 10977	April 29 Moonachie FD 115 1/2 Moonachie Rd., Moonachie, NJ 07024
October 29	Garfield Fire Co. 2 72 Belmont Ave., Garfield, NJ 07026	May 15 MEMORIAL SERVICE Bergen County Fire Academy 281-291 Campgaw Rd., Mahwah, NJ 07430
November 19*	New Milford Fire Co. 1 249 Center St., New Milford, NJ 07646	June 3 CONVENTION - ORADELL, NJ
December	NO MEETING - MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY HANUKKAH - HAPPY HOLIDAYS	*One week early due to Thanksgiving
2022		We are happy to announce that we will commence having our regular meetings starting in September 2021 barring a Coronavirus outbreak. Anyone wishing to host a meeting, please contact one of our Officers at njnyvfa@gmail.com or their personal email address as listed in this newsletter.
January 28	Piermont NY FD (62nd Consecutive Year) 554 Piermont Ave., Piermont, NY 10968	
February 25	Old Tappan FD 231 Old Tappan Rd., Old Tappan, NJ 07675	

SEPTEMBER 2021 NJNY METING, HILLCREST, NY

We will have as our speaker at this meeting, FDNY Battalion Chief and Hillcrest, NY Past Officer, Jeff Facinelli. His topic of discussion will be "Safety in the Fire Service". Please try to attend.



The officers and members of the NJ & NY Volunteer Firemen's Association extend their deepest sympathy to the families of our departed comrades:

Ex-Chief Martin Stroosnyder, New Milford Fire Dept., New Milford, NJ FD
George Bryan, Past EMS Captain, Piermont, NY FD
Bernie Bernstein, Nyack Fire Patrol, Nyack, NY FD
FF Alan B. Colsey, Mazeppa Engine Co. 2, Nyack, NY FD
Past Chief William "Bitsy" Rose, Tallman, NY FD
Past Chief, Nicholas Gatti Sr., Past Pres. NJNYVA & RCVFA, Piermont, NY FD
FF Thomas H. Cass, Wayne Hose Co., Stony Point, NY FD
Ex-Chief Walter "Jake" Lubanty, Wayne Hose Co., Stony Point, NY FD
FF Harry "Juni" Schuler Cosgrove Hose Co. 4, Haverstraw, NY FD
Chief Robert "Bobby" Murdoch Jr., Hillcrest, NY FD
FF Bruce "Buddah" Baez, Empire Hose, Piermont FD & Volunteer Fire Assoc. of Tappan, NY FD
Ex-Chief Michael Paras, Waldwick, NJ FD
Ex-Chief Louis Franco Sr., Moonachie, NJ FD

Listings of deceased members is published based on their last address on record and may not be the same as the town in which they served.

It is with deep regret that we must announce the passing of Past President Nicholas Gatti Sr. Nick was continually active with NJNY as well as being a Past President. He was also continually active with the Rockland County Volunteer Firemen's Association as well as being a Past President there. Rest Easy Nick, We will carry it from here.



MICHAEL A. BET
ARCHITECT, PC

Michael A. Bet, AIA, CSI, CDT
President

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MINISTRY OF PRESENCES

When you are around chaplains, you may hear the phrase "ministry of presence" but what is it and what does it look like. Well, I'll share something with you, anyone can have the ministry of presence. Many times, it is just being there that may help people feel more comfortable.

Recently, I have been reminded that when the military is around, we feel safe. When law enforcement is around, people may feel safe. When firefighters are around, people may feel safe. When a child's parents are around, a child should feel safe. When a faith leader is around, people may feel safe. The person may not need the services but it is just seeing that help is standing by that may bring down the stress level. They may not need to say a word or do anything. It is just knowing that they are ready. What is it for you, that all you need to do is know that is around you that makes you feel better. It's like having a fire extinguisher around, you may not need it but you feel better having it around.

In the Bible, there is an example of the ministry of presence. When Job lost everything, his friends showed up and just sat with him for seven days. They did not say a word because they could see the grief that Job was going through. Then all the trouble started as soon as they opened their mouths. Sometimes it is just best to be there and not say anything than trying to fill the silence with anything.

The ministry of presence is different things. It is a mother sit up all night, when the child is sick. It is visiting someone in the hospital. They may be in a coma or dying and you may just sit there and hold their hand. It is when we know that there may be a threat of violence or a riot and we see that law enforcement or military is ready to handle the situation.

When I work with one organization, they want to know how many people each person has worked with. I do not worry that my numbers may be as high as other people. My work is different than others. I do not say that I only spend a certain amount of time with an individual. I am there for that person, however long I need to be.

There was an organization that I was with and there was a tragic death of a member. I sat in the organization's building for three days because that was where people were accustomed to being. As people would drift in and out, one at a time, people would come and sit by me and we would talk or just be present together. Many of the people, who knew me, knew that I would probably be at the building.

At the hospital, around the holidays, most of the people do not have any visitors. I know that the clients at the hospital feel more alone at that time. They feel abandoned or tossed to the side. And others in many hospitals and nursing homes feel the same way. I make sure that I am in the hospital and usually the clients know that I will be on the campus. I may or may not get a chance to see each person, but just knowing that I am in the building makes some of the client's anxiety level reduce. In a crisis or disaster, people may be in shock. They may be still in the presence of the event or it may be right after they walked away. It may not register with them, who you are but knowing that a chaplain, friend, or whatever you are to them, is there if they need you.

There are stories or people who are about to die and they do not die until a certain friend or family member shows up. The person, whose like is about to end, may actually be comforting those that still live or that one person coming to visit may bring comfort and say something that the other may need to hear before they die. You may want to call it a level of comfort, like when a child is small and they have their favorite toy or stuffed animal. Many of us look for that level of comfort and we can also be a level of comfort. Please think of those who have gone through trauma, a crisis, or depression. Know that you just showing up may bring a smile to someone's face, may reduce the anxiety level, or bring the sense of peace and feeling that everything will be alright. Who are you willing to spend time being in the presence of, just to "Be" with them? Reminder: this is a time to shut off the phone and not look at the watch. Just Be.

As I have heard said many times before, we are human beings not human doings.


I wish you all peace and may you have comfort.

Until the next time.

Stay safe,

Didymus McHugh

didymus-mchugh.com



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