



**New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association
 Association Annual / General Meeting
 September 12th , 2019
 Crowne Plaza Hotel
 Suffern, NY**

Date:	September 12, 2019				
Call to Order:	20:00 by President Henry Ehrhardt, Pledge of Allegiance Prayer - Chaplain N. Pacella Moment of Silence for 911 remembrance				
Attendance (Signature Sheet attached)					
President	Henry Ehrhardt	Present	District 1	Maryann Portoro	Present
Executive Vice President	Teresa Hamilton	Present	District 4	James Downey	Present
Vice President	Adrian Pezzica	Present	District 5	Gregory Hatzis	Present
Secretary	Ernie Stonick,	Present	District 6	Heidi Stack	Absent
Membership Secretary	Brenda Morrissey	Present	District 7	Andrea Golinsky	Present
Treasurer	Robert Franz	Present	District 12	David Linzer	Present
			District 18	Jerrold Gelbard	Present
			Region 1	VACANT	
			Region 2	VACANT	
			Region 3	Robert Ruston	Present
Chaplain	Nancy Pacella	Present			

Roll Call:	Quorum is present.
Minutes: Motion to accept Minutes of September 20, 2018 General meeting.	Minutes previously distributed.
Officer's Reports	
President – Henry Ehrhardt	Report as submitted. Thank you to the Education Team for their work on Pulse Check 2019 Thank you to the Legislative Team for their work during Legislative Day Welcome to the new Association Directors. Memo sent regarding Medicaid/Medicare budget and impacts to rural areas. Copies of Legislative Agenda sent to NAEMT .legislative group.
Executive Vice President: Teresa Hamilton	Report as presented. Thanks to Jim Downey for attending State Council meeting. SAAVIK – on line store available, great prices Conference – coming downstate has been a good idea. About 200 registered and 250 reserved for the Banquet
Vice President – Adrian Pezzica	Report as submitted. Thank you to the Conference Committee for their hard work.
Secretary - -Ernie Stonick	Minutes submitted as corrected.
Treasurer – R. Franz	Report as submitted.
Membership Secretary – Brenda Morrissey	Report as submitted. Updated membership lists will be produced by October.

Credentials – H. Fries	Quorum is present.
Director's Reports	
District 1 – Maryann Portoro	Report as presented. District 1 Corps did well for the Rockland County and Hudson Valley Regional EMS awards.
District 4 – James Downey	Report as submitted. Squad membership is decreasing, some squads are merging. Will be adding sustaining members to mailings. District has elected new officers.
District 5 – Greg Hatzis	Report as submitted. Effort under way to re-capture squads that have been inactive or fallen away. Also looking to involve fire services in the District that respond but do not transport. Kiryas Joel granted expansion of operating area to include all of Orange County, awaiting final approvals.
District 6 – Heidi Stack	No report.
District 7 – Andrea Golinsky	Report as presented. Seeing a significant drop in individual membership. Could be a renewal/ billing issue.
District 12 – David Linzer	Report as presented. Trying to raise interest throughout the District.
District 18 – Jerrold Gelbard	Report as presented. Concentrating on rebuilding and recruiting. Activated on Regional level for response during the heat wave. 80 responses handled by volunteers Thank you to the Conference Committee
Region 2 – Mark Deavers (Temporary pending vote)	Report as presented. “Broken system” in St. Lawrence County. Over one hour response time is not uncommon. Hospital systems also in bad shape.
Region 3 – Robert Ruston	Report as submitted. Continues to grow slowly mainly due to lack of communication to Directors. More volunteer squads are going to paid services.

Committee Reports	
Blanket – James Downey	Report as submitted. Concentrating on email notifications. Three special editions of Blanket were sent out, mostly centered around State meetings. Membership mailing went out this week mainly to Region 3. Sent to 69 squads. Will mail to colleges and FD afterwards.
2019 Conference – Teresa Hamilton	Report as presented. Sponsorships have not been very productive. Found Pulse Check patch from years ago, may be worthwhile in the future. Currently 4700 addresses in Constant Contact. Difficulty in obtaining sponsorships for multiple reasons.
Nominating Committee – Jerrold Gelbard	Current slate of officers have been re-nominated.
Credentials – H. Fries	Voting hours: 1000 -1200 and 1400 – 1600 Friday 100 – 1200 Saturday By Law Amendments: membership to be changed to calendar year.
Old Business	Nothing at this time.
New Business	Mark Deavers to be voted on as Director for Region 2 at the

	next Board of Directors meeting. (September 15 th , 2019 1030)
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MOTIONS:	
MOTION: PASSED	Accept minutes from September 20. 2018 General meeting.
MOTION: FAILED	Accept all Officer's reports as presented.
MOTION: PASSED	Accept Officer's Reports with the exception of the Treasurer's Report due to the continued use of personal address and email address listed on the report.
MOTION: DEFERRED	Accept Treasurer's report once it is amended to remove the non-compliant address format prior to the Board meeting.
MOTION: PASSED	Recess until Sunday, September 15 th at 10:00 am

Next Association meeting: September 15th, 2019 Crowne Plaza, Suffern, NY
 Respectfully Submitted:

Ernie Stonick
 Secretary



New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association

518 Hooper Road #278, Endwell, New York 13760

Phone: 877-NYS-VARA

Website: www.nysvara.org

NYSVARA General Meeting, September 12th, 2019

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel,, Suffern, NY

Officers and Directors

Position	Printed Name	Signature	Alternate Printed Name	Alternate Signature
President	Henry Ehrhardt			
Executive Vice President	Teresa Hamilton			
Vice President	Adrian Pezzica			
Secretary	Ernie Stonick			
Membership Secretary	Brenda Morrissey			
Treasurer	Robert Franz			
District 1	Maryann Portoro			
District 4	James Downey			
District 5	Gregory Hatzis			
District 6	Heidi Stack			
District 7	Andrea Golinsky			
District 12	David Linzer			
District 18	Jerrold Gelbard			
Region 1	VACANT			
Region 2	VACANT			
Region 3	Robert Ruston			
Chaplain	Nancy Pacella			



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NYSVARA General Meeting

September 12th, 2019

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel

Suffern, NY

Members and Guests

Member/Guest PLEASE PRINT	Signature	Representing/ Affiliation	EMAIL Address
Debra Stewart	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	W.P. Faist Vol. Amb Corps	dmstewart@optonline.net
Richard Berger	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	IONY EMS (Retired)	RCB@theENT@aol.com
Mark Downs	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	Godwin Rescue	
Robert Rusion	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	Somers VFD	RRuste@aol.com
Gregory J. Hartz	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	DISTRICT 5	
Johanna Marza	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>		
Nancy Ehrhardt	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	Glen Oaks VBC	
Jonathan Ben	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	Farmingville FD	JBen@family.11kfd.org
Helen A. Peles	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	Chester VFD	hpires@credentials.ore
Andrea GATINSKY	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	District 7	
Joseph Tricarico	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	District 7	



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President's Annual Report – 2019

For NYSVARA Annual Meeting, Thursday, September 12, 2019

Henry A. Ehrhardt, President, NYSVARA

The year we welcomed a new Secretary Ernie S. and new directors Jerry G. (district 18) and Greg H. (District 5) . Welcome in their new positions to AJ and Brenda and thanks to Jim D. for stepping in as VP for the remainder of Rolly's term in 2018.

I participated in a conference call with Teri H, Executive VP and John H, Grey Goose Graphics regarding mailings for Pulse Check.

NYSVARA - Who We Are Flyer, Membership Recruitment Letter and district specific membership applications updated and sent to the team covering the LI Mega-Fire-EMS Show. I was happy to hear that things generally went well this year from both having a presence to doing some effective membership recruitment & retention and providing information. I believe it's important that we be able to accomplish multiple goals when we determine to do events/shows like this, as we have to be prudent with our available resources.

I have been in regular contact with the Membership Secretary about dues notices and reports. As you have seen from her reports renewals and reminders have gone out by both e-mail and direct mail. As mentioned, it is important for the Directors to do their part both quickly and persistently with regard to follow up in their district areas – by phone, by e-mail, by letter.

Executive VP, VP and I have been in touch a number of times regarding thoughts and priorities for membership recruitment, as well as web-site updates and district web pages.

Justine A. had to step down as Region 2 Director as he found he was not able to do that along with his other responsibilities. I have been having an on-going email and phone discussion with an EMS leader from the North Country about NYSVARA who has expressed interest in filling the Region 2 Directors role. We set up a conference call with NAEMT's Government Affairs team to address an issue he raised about Medicare reimbursement that would potentially impact many rural agencies.

Letter and memo drafted and sent to Assembly Health and Ways and Means Committees and Senate Health and Finance Committees regarding potential impacts of the proposed Executive Budget on EMS in NYS. Copies of the memo were sent to the Board members.

Legislative Day – Thanks to Sean and Dave who in a short amount of time assembled a great line up of meetings for Legislative Day. We had a number of productive discussions.

NYS EMS Council – Post our Legislative Day – I stayed over and along with Terri and Jim attended the State EMS council meeting. I had the opportunity to speak with the EMS Bureau Director and Deputy Director. I also networked with a number of EMS leaders from around the state. In addition we had some discussions with UNYAN and FASNY reps. I spoke at the Legislative Committee meeting about how we appreciated that language amendments had been made regarding the 209-b proposed legislation and how we were interested in keeping up a dialogue.

Lake Placid Conference – Thanks to AJ and Brenda for staffing/tabling at this conference and doing some outreach to the North Country. Which I believe proved helpful regarding discussions from RMS leaders in that area.

Thank you letter sent to Good Samaritan Hospital for use of their facilities and provision of lunch for several NYSVARA meeting this past year.

On a local NYC level, I was pleased to see that the leadership of several community volunteer agencies in NYC initiated a merger that was approved by the NYC REMSCO. Middle Village VAC, Glendale VAC and Woodhaven VAC, which had been struggling but continuing to be supported by a few long term dedicated members, merged with Ridgewood VAC. Hopefully this will serve as an example of what enlightened leadership can accomplish. Had this been done in some past cases in the NYC area, several services might still be operating rather than having faded away.

Thank You! – To all members who have been active in NYSVARA activities, at both the state and district level



New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc.

518 Hooper Road # 278, Endwell, New York 13760

(877) NYS-VARA or (877) 697-8272

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

- I would like to personally thank the Executive Vice President for putting on yet another great conference so far this year your hard work does not go unnoticed.
- The President, the Exec Vice President and I have been in contact on numerous occasions on Membership Recruitment. We are looking into various ways to obtain more membership.
- The Membership Secretary (Brenda Morrissey) and I went to the Initial Assessment Conference in Lake Placid this year and reached out to the North Country which has proven to recruit some members in the area.
- As far as District/Region meetings go, I this year will try to one for each District and Region.
- Hopefully this year we will focus on getting the millennials involved with NYSVARA as many of them do not know what NYSVARA really is about and what we could provide as a State Association.

NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association
Treasurer's Report 08/31/19

		October 1, 2018	October 1, 2017
		August 31, 2019	September 30, 2018
Expenditures	Includes	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Meetings	E board lodging, refreshments	\$119.78	\$149.00
Postage	Excludes Membership, Credentials	0.00	23.35
Officers Expenses	SEMSCO & BOD, hotel, meals, mileage	119.21	2,564.22
Pulse Check		0.00	237.69
Telephone	Answering service	0.00	0.00
Professional Fees	Exempt Organization Return	500.00	500.00
Office Supplies		135.00	949.99
District Dues Refunds		5,027.00	1,898.00
Membership		604.19	4,857.67
SAVVIK EMS Co-op	Dues, Travel Advance	0.00	-496.05
Publicity	Trade Shows, ads, hand-outs	5,778.60	0.00
Insurance		275.00	586.00
Committees - Legislative		1,551.94	1,377.48
Committees - Credentials	Copies, Postage	0.00	90.00
Committees – Good & Welfare		0.00	0.00
Committees – Special Awards		0.00	95.00
Storage		0.00	502.95
Website	Contractual	12,406.28	15,182.58
NAEMT Dues Refund		1,320.00	720.00
Scholarship		1,000.00	1,500.00
Miscellaneous		25.00	50.00
Total Expenses		\$28,862.00	\$30,787.88
Deposits		\$22,109.95	\$32,772.73
Net Change		-\$6,752.05	\$1,984.85
Opening Balance		\$51,658.53	\$49,673.68
Closing Balance		\$44,906.48	\$51,658.53

Bob Franz , Treasurer

14 Edison Drive, Huntington Station, NY 11746

(631) 421-9121 treasurer@nysvara.org robo4200@hotmail.com

**NYS Volunteer Ambulance And Rescue Association
Annual Meeting September 12, 2019
Treasurer's Annual Report – August 31, 2019
Bob Franz, Treasurer**

The attached Treasurer's Report dated 08/31/19 presents the statements of cash receipts and disbursements for the period October 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 and the twelve months ended September 30, 2018.

Comments:

- All bills are being paid on a current basis.
- All membership dues are being deposited on a timely basis. Districts that are due their portion of dues received by the Association are being paid no later than on a quarterly basis.
- The bank statements have been reconciled through August 31, 2019.
- The IRS Form 990 EZ and NYS Form Char 500 for year ended 09/30/18 were prepared by our CPA and were mailed before their extended due date.
- All member squads/departments are asked to use the SAVVIK Buying Group for purchasing EMS related supplies. In these tight economic times, there are substantial savings when participating in the buying group. This is one of the best member benefits that we have at no additional cost to the member squad/department.
- I ask that all our Squads / Departments and individual members pay your dues upon receipt of the Association invoice. Timely payment of your dues helps in decreasing labor, material and postage costs that are incurred with reminder notices.
- I encourage all our members and districts to actively pursue new squad / department memberships and individual memberships within their squad and district. I also ask that everyone continue to request their vendors to join the Association as sustaining members.



New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association District 4 New York City Region

Travis Kessel, Chairperson (tkessel0415@gmail.com)
 Louis Greco, Vice Chairperson (louis.greco@psvac.org)
 George Delgado, Recording Secretary
 Nancy Ehrhardt, Treasurer
 James Downey, Director (Dist4Director@nysvara.org)

9/12/19

District 4 Report for 9/12/19 General Meeting and 9/15/19 Board of Directors Meeting

District 4 meetings since last report:

- 8/8/19 at BRAVO VAC, Brooklyn. NYC REMSCO representative gave a presentation on ePCR software. *Image Trend Elite* is offered free of charge to squads through 12/31/20 with hopes of receiving grant funding for an extended period. Outgoing Chair Martin Grillo was voted Life Membership in the District.

Treasurer's Report dated 7/11/19 indicates as of 7/31/19:

- TD Bank Business Account balance: \$1,595.71
- TD Bank Dinner Dance Account balance: \$5,955.82

There are currently 23 independent volunteer ambulance squads in NYC. In addition, there are 5 ambulance services operated by VFDs and 3 by colleges. A number of BLS first responder agencies also exist. Most agencies are members of either District 4 or 18.

District 4 membership:

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Paid squad members	13	16	19
Lapsed squads	13	10	7

Paid squads are: Bed-Stuy VAC, BRAVO VAC, Broad Channel VFD, Emergency Medical Rescue of NYC, Flatlands VAC, Forest Hills VAC, Gerritsen Beach VFD, Glen Oaks VAC, Glendale VAC, Lindenwood VAC, Metropolitan Fire Association, Middle Village VAC, New York Rescue Response Team, Park Slope VAC, Queens Village-Hollis-Bellerose VAC, Ridgewood VAC, Roxbury Emergency Services, Volunteer Heart Ambulance and West Hamilton Beach VFD.

Lapsed squads from 2017-2018 are: Rockaway Point VFD.

Lapsed squads from previous years include: Bensonhurst VAC, Brooklyn College EMS, Central Park Medical Unit, Columbia University EMS, Jamaica Estates-Holliswood-South Bayside VAC and North Shore Rescue Squad.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Paid individual members	33	34	59 (Includes Life Members)
Lapsed individuals	16	19	9 (approximate)
Paid sustaining members	1	0	1 (West Queens VAA)
Lapsed sustaining	0	1	0

There are differences between Membership Secretary, Treasurer and District 4 records concerning both squads and individuals and I will be working with Association Officers to resolve the differences. Squad membership will be down in 2020 due to mergers and eligibility changes.

NYC REGIONAL NEWS

Met with FDNY EMS Queens Division 4 Chief Nancy Gilligan on 8/30/19. I gave her a directory of volunteer ambulance services in NYC and reviewed some current information on what is going on in the volunteer sector. She has worked with VACs & VFDs in previous assignments in Manhattan and the Rockaways. To her knowledge there are no issues between 911 units and volunteer units.

NYC JULY HEAT WAVE

FDNY on 7/17/19 issued the following notice to volunteer ambulance squads in NYC:
"The Fire Department City of New York ("FDNY) is preparing for additional ambulance coverage, with an expectation of record heat and call volume for Friday July 19th thru Sunday July 21st. All NYC Volunteer Ambulance Corps. interested in staffing additional ambulances for the NYC 911 System, are encouraged to pre-schedule ALS or BLS ambulance coverage with the FDNY as follows: Volunteer Ambulance Corps. can pre-schedule utilizing 911VoluntaryLiaison@fdny.nyc.gov email address. Email should include: agency code, agency name, contact telephone, ambulance availability (day/hours)."

The following 14 squads responded to the FDNY request and handled NYC 911 calls in addition to their own direct calls:

- Bay Community VAC - 94A (District 18 member squad)
- Bensonhurst VAS - 93B
- BRAVO VAC - 93A (District 4 member squad)
- Central Park Medical Unit - 91A
- Columbia University VAC - 91B
- East Midwood VAC - 92M
- Flatlands VAC - 93E (District 4 member squad)
- Gerritson Beach VFD & Ambulance - 93C (District 4 member squad)
- Glen Oaks VAC - 94D (District 4 member squad)
- Jamaica Estates-Holliswood-South Bayside VAC - 94H
- Park Slope VAC - 93K (District 4 member squad)
- Ridgewood VAC - 94N (District 4 member squad)
- Throggs Neck VAC - 92C (District 18 member squad)
- Volunteer Heart Ambulance - 95A (District 4 member squad)

Some squads ran multiple units. 154 calls were dispatched to VACs during the Heat Emergency 7/19/19 06:00 - 7/22/19 06:00.

We are hearing that FDNY EMS was happy with VAC & VFD help during July heat wave and expressed openness improved relationship with volunteer sector providers.

NYS REVOLVING LOAN FUND

I stopped by a squad during August and the president mentioned he recently received notice of an outstanding NYS Revolving Loan Fund substantial obligation he was not aware of. The web site at <http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/services/loan/documents/loanawards.pdf> shows the following loans taken out by NYC squads. Only 3 have been repaid and 8 remain outstanding with unknown balances.

- Broad Channel VFD & VAC - 8/8/00 for \$200,000.00 for Construction - Open
- Broad Channel VFD & VAC - 12/19/11 for \$100,000.00 for Construction - Open
- Corona CAC 4/7/05 for \$300,000.00 for Construction - Open
- Flatlands VAC - 8/29/05 for \$75,000.00 for Renovations - Paid in Full
- Forest Hills VAC - 12/28/09 for \$93,000.00 for Ambulance - Open
- Lindenwood CVAC - 7/29/04 for \$33,750.00 for Rehab Vehicle - Paid in Full
- Little Neck Douglaston VAC - 3/27/02 for \$51,577.00 for Ambulance - Paid in Full
- Point Breeze Volunteer Fire Co. - 3/14/16 for \$250,000.00 for Apparatus - Open
- Queens Village-Hollis-Bellerose VAC (Bellerose Rescue) - 7/29/04 for \$175,000.00 for Construction - Open
- Throggs Neck VAC - 6/1/11 for \$90,000.00 for Ambulance - Open
- Volunteer Heart Ambulance - 4/30/08 for \$300,000.00 for Construction - Open

New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association

Report from the Fifth District

prepared for the 2019 Annual Meeting held on Thursday, September 12
at the Crowne Plaza Suffern – Mahwah

The Fifth District was hosted by five different agencies for each of the six bi-monthly meetings held during the last fiscal year:

- 10/18 – by Kiryas Joel Volunteer EMS, at Orange Regional Medical Center
- 12/18 – by Bon Secours Charity Health System, at Bon Secours Community Hospital
- 2/19 – by Goshen VAC, at Orange Regional Medical Center
- 4/19 – by Town of Montgomery VAC, at their quarters
- 6/19 – by Bon Secours Charity Health System, at St. Anthony Community Hospital
- 8/19 – by Monroe VAC, at their quarters

Our meetings are scheduled to fall on the fourth Tuesday of the even months of the year, to coordinate with the Orange County EMS Council, which meets on the fourth Tuesday of the odd months of the year. Most have opened with guest speakers invited to present on topics of concern to our members (e.g.: the recent measles outbreak, insurance, hospital radio communications, etc.)

Our membership numbers have remained stable throughout the year. As of our August, 2019 meeting:

- we have 11 paid ambulance squads and one paid fire company, out of a potential pool of 21 volunteer EMS agencies and 78 volunteer fire departments between Dutchess County and our portion of Orange County
- 100 paid individual members, and
- two life members.

A goal set for 2020 is to bring back into the fold the eight volunteer corps in Orange that aren't current members and approach the volunteer fire departments that run EMS calls, starting in Orange, to gauge their interest in membership.

Our financial status is also very stable. Income has kept pace with expenditures throughout the year, so much so that as of our August, 2019 meeting, our closing balance of \$4,179.88 was a mere \$208.08 less than the closing balance of our August, 2018 meeting. Some of our savings could be attributed to that fact that many of our officers' trip and related meeting expenses are generously covered by their home agencies, thus keeping submissions for reimbursements at a minimum.

Lastly, our District is thrilled that, during the Banquet to be held two evenings from now, three out of eleven special award winners were nominees from our District...Amy Doty from Orange 9-1-1 for Communications Specialist of the Year, Dr. Kaushal Shah of Orange Regional Medical Group for Emergency Physician of the Year, and New Windsor Volunteer Ambulance Corps for the Unit Citation – for their save of Joey

Federico, a four-year old boy found unresponsive and not breathing at his home on May 2, 2018. Through the quick actions of the ALS and BLS crew on duty that day (and appropriate law enforcement assistance), Joey was rapidly assessed, treated, and transported to Montefiore SL-C Hospital (with CPR being performed while enroute), from where he was airlifted to WMC/Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. There, surgery was performed to correct what was determined to be a "massive brain aneurysm," according to local news media reports. Thanks to the quick actions of Paramedic Michael Bigg, and EMTs John Seymour and Monica Duarte that day last year, Joey lived to see his fifth birthday. Further proof that District 5 holds up to its motto:

"A Blend of the Finest"

New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association

Report from the Fifth District

prepared for the Board of Directors Meeting held on Sunday, September 15, 2019

It's been a busy two months since the Board last met. Elections were held during our last District meeting. The following candidates won the listed offices:

Chairperson:	David Grippe	Vice Chairperson:	Diane Savage
Recording Secretary:	Bryan Williams	Corresponding Secretary:	Ernie Stonick
Financial Secretary:	Teresa Grippe	Officer – at – Large:	Dale Plumer
State Director:	Gregory S. Hatzis		

State Senator Jen Metzger (D, SD42) held an EMS Roundtable on Tuesday, August 27 at Maple Hill in Middletown. D5, which is in part of her District, was well represented. Reports are that her staff received quite an education as to what is involved in getting an ambulance out the door to answer a call for service.

Speaking of State Senators, the District mourned the loss of past State Senator William J. Larkin, Jr. (R, SD39), who passed away on August 31, 2019, representing at his Mass of Christian Burial held on Wednesday, September 4 at Saint Thomas of Canterbury Church in Cornwall-on-Hudson.

Sticking with the political theme, tomorrow Assemblyman Colin Schmitt (R, AD99) will be hosting a "Salute to First Responders" at Orange's Emergency Services Center. Out of sixteen honorees selected by the towns and villages in Schmitt's district, two are EMTs: George Lyons from Goshen VAC and Ben Conques from Woodbury Community Ambulance. Bravo, gents!

Fraternally,

Gregory S. Hatzis
Director



New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association Inc. District 7 – Suffolk County

Director Report- Annual Meeting, September 12, 2019
Crowne Plaza
Suffern, NY.

District 7 held their annual election for office at the August meeting. The results are as follows:

Director	Andrea Golinsky
Chairperson	Robert Franz
Vice-Chair	Matt Phillips
Secretary	Tanya Rivers
Treasurer	Andrea Golinsky
Officer at Large	Tanya Rivers

There were 9 District 7 meetings held in the since last PulseCheck. District 7 meets monthly on the third Tuesday with the exception of May (due to attendance at the EMS Memorial) and July and December. Meetings are held at various member squad headquarters.

We are far below our membership compared to previous years:

Individuals-

18/19	336
17/18	662
16/17	609

Member Squads

18/19	16
17/18	23
16/17	19

I attribute this to the change in billing procedure.

Challenge Coins have been ordered and are to be delivered by vendor to PulseCheck for inclusion in the give-away bags at registration.

The following trophies had been ordered by District 7 agencies/supporters:

It is felt that more places the NYSVARA logo is seen is good advertising for the Association.

District 7 Officers and members continue to attend county and association meetings in order to represent and promote NYSVARA. They include the Town of Huntington Recruitment Committee, The Town of Huntington Fire Chiefs Council, Suffolk County Recruitment and Retention, Suffolk County Ambulance Chiefs Association, Suffolk County PD Second Precinct



NEW YORK STATE VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

District 18

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT - 2019

Financials – Awaiting report from Lou Deutsch, Treasurer on current status.

District 18 is currently comprised of:

6 Paid Agencies

Bay Community VAC, College Point Community Ambulance Corps, Flushing Community VAC, Glen Oaks VAC, Little Neck-Douglaston Community Ambulance Corps, Throgs Neck VAC, Corona CAC

2 Lapsed Agencies

Whitestone Volunteer Ambulance Service (meeting to be scheduled to return to the Association)

Working to get Fordham University EMS back into the Association.

18 Individual Members

Working on outreach to increase this number from squads

This year has really been a year of rebuilding for District 18 as we've gotten members back into the district and worked closely with many of them to grow, rebuild and recover. With a couple of new board members working alongside our veteran officers, the district has a new feeling of excitement with big plans in the next year.

Highlights from 2019:

- Along with member agencies of District 4, District 18 member agencies were activated via the NYC mutual aid system to assist during one of the worst heatwaves in our city's history, providing seamless responses and creating a foundation for improvement of services in our region.
- District 18 was able to ensure all agencies received proper training and member updates for several NYC REMSCO protocol updates, most especially electronic patient care reporting and new stroke protocols.
- Officers of District 18 are developing an ongoing forum for member organization leaders to coordinate resources and share best practices. Including in this are neighboring organizations from other districts and non-ambulance services to create systems that benefit everyone.

Submitted by,

Jerry Gelbard

Director



NYSVARA Region 3 Annual Report September 12, 2019

During the course of this past year member and non-member squads, plus individual members, were made aware of information and events pertaining to the Association. Unfortunately, in regard to dues paying, dues delinquent, and new organizations, the communications from membership and Grey Goose has been lacking. There's been no updates. In reference, it can only be suggested the Region remains roughly the same as last year in the number of organizational and individual members.

Ulster County recently had one of the last VACs become a combination squad due to the ever increasing lack of volunteer squads being able to garner volunteers to cover EMS calls. Marbletown VAC continues, however, in answering an increased number of calls. Ulster County is but one of the many counties in Region 3 facing the worsening situation happening through out the State: decreasing availability of volunteers. Dutchess and Greene counties have mainly combination organizations now. Westchester relies heavily upon Westchester EMS to respond mutual aid. Columbia County has but four volunteer squads with a commercial company handling the vast majority of the county. Further north, the matter is not different.

Pulse Check journals from year past were distributed to non-member squads and FD's that run EMS, to encourage both membership as well as attendance at this year's Pulse Check conference. Some of those who peered through the journals were enlightened regarding what we offer. Some suggested there were lack of funds to participate. Again, and to the Board, having a list of attending squads and departments may be beneficial.

A question exists as to the scope of the Region: does the region extend into Albany County to Washington County. The web site could have a region outline, which will benefit all.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert H. Ruston, Director
Region 3

Member Benefits Annual Report September 2019

The Member Benefits Committee is always looking for new benefits for the membership.

The following is a list of the current benefits:

Life Insurance (Accidental Death Benefit)

National Income Life Insurance Co. (NILCO) is providing our individual members an Accidental Death Benefit. The benefit is \$4,000 for the member. They also have other discounted benefits programs such as prescription drug plan, vision care, chiropractic and podiatry that they will make available for our members.

Discount Auto and Home Insurance

We still have access to a discount on Auto and Home Insurance. Any member, who uses Liberty Mutual as their home and auto insurer, should call their representative and ask about getting the benefit discount under the Group Savings Plan.

Other Discounts

We still have discounts for purchases of books and magazines, as well as, medical billing. Digitech Computer Inc., which was established in 1984, and provide medical transportation software and billing services. They specialize on ambulance billing in New York. They give a reasonable discount for their services. Please contact Susan Mancinni at 914-239-4938 for more details.

Additional benefits that are available to us are:

- 1) **Sprint Nextel** There is a “user friendly” web site specifically for the Association. The website is www.sprint.bz/nysvara. There is 22% monthly discount offered on rate plans; special discount packages on cell phone accessories and customer service.
- 3) **Emergency Services Software** is a comprehensive computer database system that manages the administrative activities such as call tracking, human resources, CME tracking, equipment inventory, LOSAP monitoring, vehicle maintenance, personnel scheduling and donor tracking. If you would like to get more information, contact Bill Prinzivalli at 201-934-0125 or go to their web site: www.EmergencyServicesSoftware.com.
- 4) **www.shamuclub.com** - This site allows our members to receive discounts and benefits at all Anheuser Bush Parks. By signing up and getting our company code they can sign up and become an individual member and also receive discounted travel and entrance to the parks. Members also receive coupons that they can use at the park.
- 5) **Tanger, Waterloo and Woodbury Commons** - These outlet centers are willing to allow us to receive a free coupon book upon presenting the NYSVARA Membership card. This book is normally a \$10 value and allows the buyer to receive discounts at all participating stores at the locations. Furthermore, Woodbury Commons may wish to allow our members to receive a special discount when traveling to and from convention.
- 6) **Plum Benefits Discount Program** – This service is no cost to the Association and will allow our members to receive discounted or hard to get tickets to Broadway Shows, Cultural Events and Sport Events. A monthly newsletter will be posted on the website.

- 7) **JEMS Magazine Discount**- All members of our organization have been allowed the opportunity to receive JEMS Magazine at a discount. **(Need new link for discount rate .)**
- 8) **Brady Publishing** - They have a partnership with the International Fire Safety Training Association (IFSTA) and are now selling the IFSTA training materials. You can contact Nancy Hauss at Brady Publishing for purchases at 518-478-9888 for her office, 888-877-7824 ext. 1237 for voice mail and nancy_hauss@prenhall.com for e-mail. **(Working on updating this information.)**
- 9) **Lighthouse Uniforms** - home of the Fallen EMT/Paramedic Dress Uniform Program is happy to extend to members of the NYSVARA a 10% discount on both its EMT Class 'A' and EMT Honor Guard Uniform Packages. Make sure to identify yourself as a member of the New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association. They pride themselves on being fabric fanatics, the color lots always match, no matter when the uniform or the parts are acquired. The uniforms are made from a tropical worsted wool, the same material that the U.S. Navy uses for their summer uniforms. To receive more information about this product please go to www.lighthouseuniform.com or call Steve Cohen at 206-213-0894.
- 10) **Dental Discount Plan with Careington International Corporation**. Careington provides online application for membership, fulfillment of membership kits and ID cards, member services, online provider search link, and marketing information for distribution via web landing page. NYSVARA will receive 15% commission paid from collected members' fees, and be set up as retail "agent."

You may also find out about our benefits that are available on the Association website.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at acawstar@yahoo.com or call me at (631) 921-2565 (cell).

Submitted by,

Alice Wright

BLANKET Newsletter

NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association
518 Hooper Road, #278, Endwell, NY 13760
theblanket@nysvara.org

DATE: 9/12/19
TO: NYSVARA Board of Directors
FROM: James B. Downey & Nancy Ehrhardt
Coeditors, THE BLANKET Newsletter
SUBJECT: BLANKET Committee Report for 9/12 General Meeting and 9/15/19 Board of Directors Meeting

BLANKET NEWSLETTER

BLANKET Special Edition - NYS DOH SEMSCO/SEMAG Meetings September 2018 was published 11/7/18.
BLANKET Special Edition - NYS DOH SEMSCO/SEMAG Meetings January 2019 was published 2/10/19.
BLANKET Special Edition - NYS DOH DEMSCO/SEMAG Meetings May 2019 was published 6/10/19.

BLANKET 2019 issue #1 is in off & on preparation. There are over 10 pages of text already assembled that is updated from time to time. Next publication date is unknown.

Distribution of the BLANKET by e-mail is to over 4,500 and includes both paid up and recently lapsed individual and squad members, all REMSCOs, County EMS Coordinators plus NYS DOH Bureau of EMS & Trauma central and regional offices. Copies of the BLANKET are printed for distribution at various venues such as the First Responder Education Day in Nassau County in April and the annual NYSVARA Legislative Day in Albany in May.

E-MAIL BLASTS

Constant Contact was used to send the following messages:

7/22/19	30 EMS Courses-CMEs-Events
7/24/19	NYS DOH BEMS&TS News - Policy Stat 19-03 (Measles) and BLS Protocol Implementation
7/26/19	NYC REMSCO Free METS Ticket Raffle
8/6/19	District 4 NYSVARA Meeting 8/8/19 at BRAVO VAC at 8:00 PM
8/9/19	27 EMS Courses-CMEs-Events
8/17/19	20 EMS Courses-CMEs-Events
8/18/19	Nassau REMAG 8/7/19 Meeting - Notes, Agenda & Attachment
8/21/19	North Shore Univ Hosp ED Ambulance Patient Off-Loading, Traffic Pattern & Ambulance Parking
8/31/19	FDNY EMS Rescue Paramedic Protocol Update for Public Comment
8/31/19	9 EMS Courses-CMEs-Events
9/7/19	Nassau REMSCO 9/4/19 Meeting - Notes, Agenda, Correspondence Report & Attachment

MEETINGS & EVENTS ATTENDED SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING

7/27/19	T. Cronogue street renaming at Wyandanch-Wheatley Heights AC, Suffolk
8/7/19	Nassau REMAG meeting at Mercy Medical Center, Rockville Centre, Nassau
8/19/19	EMS Leadership meeting at North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, Nassau
8/22/19	Nassau Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC) meeting at NYU Winthrop, Mineola
8/27/19	NYC REMAG meeting at Fort Totten, Queens
9/4/19	Nassau REMSCO meeting at Nassau University Medical Center, East Meadow
9/10/19	NYC REMAG meeting in Manhattan

EMS Continuing Medical Education (CME) presentations in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Nassau. Networked with current and potential new members.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Produced EXCEL file of 1,226 organizations with a NYS DOH EMS agency code. List was then matched against 8/5/19 Final Voting List from Membership Secretary. There are about 282 independent VACs, 9 combination paid/volunteer, 22 colleges and 985 VFD agencies that are prospects for membership drive. A 4 sheet package has been assembled consisting of:

- Cover letter
- Who we are page - 2 sides
- SAVVIK Value page and Vendor page
- NYSVARA Membership Application and Member Organization Report

Plan is to start with a mailing to independent VACs first.

First mailing of 69 letters to Region 3 squads was sent 9/9/19.

ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF PULSE CHECK 2019

Produced EXCEL file of 1,739 organizations in NYS with EMS agency code. List was used for PULSE CHECK mailing.

Sponsor request packages were mailed or hand delivered to:

- Ambulnz - Stan Vachovsky, CEO - 05-30-19
- Ambulnz - Michael Witkowski, Senior Director - 05-30-19
- Catholic Health Services of Long Island (Mercy Medical Center) - Victor Politi, MD - 05-30-19
- Neville Fleet Services - Paul Gurney, Owner - 06-04-19
- NuHealth Foundation - Linda Walsh, Executive Director - 05-30-19
- NYU Winthrop Hospital - Edmund Keating, Senior VP - 05-30-19
- South Nassau Communities Hospital - Joe Calderone, Senior VP - 05-30-19

Follow-ups have been done but have received no positive replies.

Maintaining a database of potential vendors and exhibitors. We have about 1000 vendor names and addresses assembled from participation in recent trade shows and advertisements ready for PULSE CHECK mailings. We will continue to update the database in the coming year. The previous list had risen to 800 records but the information in the listing had not been re-verified or updated in years.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Database of all EMS, fire and search & rescue agencies down to the station and company level in New York is being maintained and regularly updated. Total currently is about 4,800 records. This database can be sorted by:

- District and/or Region
- county
- service type – ambulance, first responder, air or fire
- care level – BLS, AEMT-I, AEMT-CC, AEMT-P or rescue
- ownership – independent, VFD, municipal, police, college, industrial, hospital or commercial
- Regional EMS Council

Word continues to get out about our e-mail notification list, which currently totals 2,100 names statewide. It has been effective at getting information out and we are receiving regular requests from other organizations to pass on notices of events.