

**ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS**  
**OF**  
**ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**October 24, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Association of Fire Districts of Orange County, NY was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at Monroe Joint Fire District, Station 1. President Matthew Thorp opened the meeting with the salute to the flag at 8:00PM. A moment of silence was observed for our fallen brothers and anyone in need of our prayers.

Roll call showed President Thorp, Vice President Sullivan, Director Nokland and Secretary Fogg in attendance. Roll call showed 11 Districts in attendance: Coldenham, Cronomer Valley, Goodwill, Howells, Maybrook, Montgomery, Monroe, Orange Lake, Salisbury Mills, South Blooming Grove, and Washingtonville.

**Guest Speaker:** Greg Townsend from Marshall & Sterling Insurance Company and Carla West from McNeil & Company. Mr. Townsend and Ms. West spoke on the Cancer Bill. They emphasized the importance of filing on time, completing the form and making sure all eligible firefighters are included. A question-and-answer period followed.

**Secretary's Report:**

The minutes from the August 22, 2023, meeting were read for approval. A motion was made by Cronomer Valley, seconded by Washingtonville, the minutes be accepted as read. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

**Communications – None**

**Treasurer's Report:**

There was no treasurer's report due to the absence of the treasurer.

**Officers' Reports:**

**President's Report:** President Thorpe thanked all the firefighters that were called to help at the bus accident on 84.

**Vice President's Report:** No report

**Director's Report:** No report

**Fire Coordinator's Report:** Jim Skelly reported for the coordinator's office. Jim stated the enrollment seems to be down on training classes and they are trying to find out why. Volunteerism is down and that in itself is a problem. Jim also reminded all districts to make sure that their members are taking advantage of the 10% tax reduction for volunteers with both school districts and towns. It does make a difference.

**Committee Reports:**

By Law Committee: - No report

Nominating Committee: No report

**State Report:** Don Greene reported for the State Association

- Fire department Manpower Issues – being felt by many districts across the state. Volunteerism is down and some areas are looking into hiring chiefs or part time firefighters.
- The state is separating the Secretary/Treasurer position into two jobs with the treasurer being an appointed position.
- October 2024 is the next convention.

**Unfinished business:** None

**New Business:** Legislators' Breakfast. 2024 is an election year and we should start to think about putting together a legislators' breakfast.

Recruitment issues: Districts should get involved in recruitment – talk to officers, talk about the possibility of group efforts to recruit new members.

**Bills:**

MaryAnn Fogg	\$100.00
Monroe Fire Department	150.00

A motion was made by Cronomer Valley, seconded by Maybrook to pay the bills. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The next regular meeting is to be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at Cronomer Valley Fire Department.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion made by Salisbury Mills, seconded by Howells was carried that the meeting be adjourned at 9:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Fogg

Secretary