

The Benevolent Bulletin Fall 2026



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Baer

President

Albert Nicolino

Vice President

Eric Robinson

Treasurer

Thomas Raynor

Secretary

Brian Nicholson

Trustee

Lincoln Mclean

Admin. Clerk

Nicholas Miraglia

Attorney

The Fall Benevolent General Membership Meeting

To be held on

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 8:00 P.M.

at 416 Atlantic Ave. Freeport N.Y.

For those of you that cannot attend in person The meeting will be held also be via zoom call (GO TO MEETING SITE). Further details on calling into attend ZOOM meeting enclosed.

Ex Captain Raymond Burkart June 10 th , 2026
Member Emergency- Rescue Co. #9 life member of this Association.

Ex Chief Alan Grosser. May 30 th , 2026
Former member - Patriot Hose Co. #4, Wide Awake Engine Co. #1 ,
Excelsior Truck Company #1 life member of this Association.

Former Firefighter William Willets. May 7th, 2026
Former member Vigilant Hose Co. #2 life member of this Association.

Former Firefighter Edward Briggs Jr. April 2 nd , 2026
Former member Patriot Hose Co. #4 life member of this Association.



*Let Us Remember Our Departed Members
Who Have Answered Their Last Alarm*



THE BENEVOLENT BULLETIN - FALL 2026



**Volunteer & Exempt Firemen's
Benevolent Association of
Freeport, New York**

416 Atlantic Avenue
Freeport, New York 11520

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President's Message

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

Our next General Membership meeting will be held in person at Benevolent office or VIA GO TO MEETING on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 8:00 P.M. We are now doing in person and zoom meetings. AS USUAL AT OUR FALL MEETING LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE MEETING Our thoughts and 1 prayers remain with the membership and their families.

At the Annual General Membership meeting held On April 28, 2026 - the following actions were taken. the election of the Executive Board was held on that evening, as well as the presentation of life membership cards, to RAYMOND BURKART, JAMES FABRIZIO, ANDREW HARDWICK, JOSEPH HERRERO, NEIL NICHOLSON, STEVEN MOSKOWITZ, JOSEPH SANTORELLI. - WE SENT OUT THOSE CARDS TO THE MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON. Congratulations on attaining this achievement! As far as the elections go, the following were nominated, as per bylaws- and elected to the following positions. David Baer - President, - Albert Nicolino Vice President, Brian Nicholson-Trustee, Eric Robinson- Treasurer, and Thomas Raynor - Secretary, and the appointment of Lincoln Mclean as Administrative Clerk.

It is a great honor, to be back as President and work with the Board and company liaisons, and the entire membership to continue moving forward to provide the membership with all the benefits we can provide under our charter. As of 1/1/25 our new cycle of vision care program started, providing up to \$500.00 every 2 years, out of pocket reimbursement to our membership on purchase of Prescription eyeglasses. As of this date we assisted over 69 members with disbursements of over \$29,200. You still have until December 31, 2026 until the current cycle ends. Since the vision care program started in 1993, we have assisted 889 of our members with out-of-pocket reimbursement for an approximate cost of \$193,507.61. AS OF JANUARY 1, 2027 THE BOARD HAS DECIDED TO INCREASE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS.

1. THE AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT TO COMPANIES FOR FUNERAL COALITION UP TO \$ 500.00 (NON2%) REMAINS THE SAME
2. INCREASE THE VISION CARE, UP TO \$600.00 ANNUALLY. PLEASE NOTE THIS WILL BE EACH YEAR AND NOT A TWO-YEAR CYCLE
3. INCREASE THE DEATH DISABILITY UP TO \$12,000.00
4. WE STILL ARE PAYING THE DUES FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION TO BE LONG TO F.A.S.N.Y. (YOU ALL SHOULD BE RECEIVING THE FASNY MAGAZINE AND CORRESPONDENCE) ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT US. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT FOR THE 3RD YEAR IN A ROW, WE RECEIVED FROM THE N.Y.S. DEPT. OF TAXES AND FINANCE OVER \$300,000, THIS YEAR THERE WAS OVERPAYMENT FOR ABOUT \$7,000.00 WHICH WE HAD TO RETURN TO THE STATE ON OUR 2% CHECK. THIS WILL HELP THE BOARD WITH PROVIDING THE MAXIMUM OF BENEFITS TO OUR MEMBERS. AGAIN, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT BENEFITS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US.

In August I attended as delegate the F.A.S.N.Y convention & 2% Forum in Ellicottville, N.Y. in Western N.Y. with Several members- delegates from Freeport. Part of our job in attending the 2% forum is to speak to representatives of the Comptroller and N.Y.S. Department of finance is to learn how to use the 2% monies we receive from the State and to legally assist our members and their families. As discussed at the last general membership meeting, I WROTE A LETTER TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF F.A.S.N.Y TO VOICE OUR DISPLEASURE WITH THE WAY THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION WAS HELD. SUCH

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AS THE LOCATION, CHANGE DAY OF VOTING ETC. I WILL HAVE UPDATE ON THIS AT THE MEETING.

We have, at this time also assisted over 45 members and their families with assistance based on Disability, indigency, medical equipment, and Death Disability, in the year-to-date figure of approximately \$174,394 . if you feel that you may need assistance from the association, please do not hesitate to contact us. You may contact us at our e-mail address at VEFBAFFD@aol.com OR FREEPORTFIREBENEV@GMAIL.COM or at our website FREEPORTFIREBENEV.COM for any application forms you may need. In regards to our investments, the value of assets of the Association is still strong. Also, the Board would like you to go to the members section on the website and update your current information, Name, Address, and E- MAIL ADDRESS- This is important to keep our files up to date, as of this date, over the past few years we had Several members move and did not let the board know the new information, causing problems when we send out newsletters or try to contact them Trustee Nicholson informed me the Association has approximately 481 members throughout the country.

I wanted at this time to keep our out-of-town membership of what is happening in the Freeport Fire Department. For those of you that want to keep in touch of the comings and goings of the Department, you may go to the Department website @ FREEPORTFD.ORG. I also wanted to inform you that we had over 120 members in August go to the state parade in Hempstead , to cheer on the Freeport Red Devils motorized tournament team. And I want to Congratulate - Chief Christopher Burkart and those members participating on taking 1 st place over 50 category and best overall in the parade. For those of you living out of the area, and you want to check out the motorized tournaments, YOU CAN GO ON YOU TUBE SEARCH FOR N.Y.S. DRILL TEAMS.MOST TOURNAMENTS ARE BROADCAST LIVE AND ARCHIVED.

Finally, I just attended the Annual Memorial ceremony of 9/11 at memorial opposite hose 3 on Bayview Ave. It still is a moving, emotional ceremony bringing the families and residents of Freeport together to remember those souls we lost on that day 25 years ago., And as we gather to prove that we shall never forget. Please remember these five members of the Department that gave their lives on 9/11, And to all of the people that were lost since that terrible day. Part of the ceremony was to add the plaques to the Light House of Keith Young, Ronnie Stortz, John Wensley, and Freeport Police Detective Patrick Franzone.

ALWAYS IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

ANDRE FLETCHER, TIMOTHY HIGGINS, MICHAEL KIEFER, RICHARD T. MULDOWNEY JR. DAVID M. WEISS and to KEITH YOUNG, RONALD STORTZ, JOHN WENSLEY, WHO PASSED AWAY RELATED TO 9/11 CANCER.

Hope to see you in person or zoom (DIRECTIONS ARE BELOW) at the General Membership meeting on October 27 TH 2026.

Fraternally yours,

President

David Baer
David Baer

Fall General membership meeting

Oct 27, 2026, 8:00 - 10:00 PM (America/New_York)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/982491525> You can also dial in using your phone.

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Board Of Trustees L-R V.P. -Albert Nicolino, Treasurer-Eric Robinson, President - Dave Baer, Trustee-Brian Nicholson, Secretary -Tom Raynor Administrative Clerk- Lincoln Mclean



Presentation Of Life Membership Cards- L-R V.P. Nicolino, President Baer, Joseph Santorelli, Joe Herrero, Trustee Nicholson, Treasurer Robinson. Missing From Photo- Raymond Burkart, James Fabrizio, Steve Moskowitz, Neil Nicholson.

