The Benevolent Bulletin Fall 2025

BOARDOFTRUSTEES

David Baer
President
Albert Nicolino
Vice President
Eric Robinson
Treasurer
Brian Nicholson
Trustee
Thomas Raynor
Secretary
Nicholas Miraglia
Attorney

The Fall Benevolent Annual General Membership Meeting

To be held on

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 8:00 P.M.

at 416 Atlantic Ave. Freeport N.Y.

For those of you that can not attend in person

The meeting will be held also be via zoom call (GO TO MEETING SITE).

Further details on calling in, to attend ZOOM meeting enclosed.

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

416 Atlantic Avenue
Freeport, New York 11520

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THE BENEVOLENT BULLETIN - FALL 2025

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

Honorary Chief
Richard "Artie" Grempel
June 21,2025
Member- Patriot Hose Co.#4

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 28, 2025 at8:00 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 prayers remain with the membership and their families.**

At the Annual General Membership meeting held On April 22,2025

- 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 **BRIAN BONORA SR.,WILLIAM CHIMERI,JOSEPH FALCO SR., ALBERT NICOLINO,DAVID "JEFF" STEVENS. – 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 33 members with disbursements of over $15,000. You still have until December 31, 2026 until the current cycle ends. Since the vision care program started in 1993, we have assisted 853 of our members with out-of-pocket reimbursement for an approximate cost of $340,000.AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025 THE BOARD HAS DECIDED TO INCREASE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS.

1.INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT TO COMPANIES FOR FUNERAL COALITION UP TO $ 500.00 (NON2%)
2.INCREASE THE VISION CARE, UP TO $500.00 EVERY 2 YEAR CYCLE
3. INCREASE THE DEATH DISABILITY UP TO $11,000.00
4. WE STARTED PAYING THE DUES FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION TO BELONG 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 2ND YEAR IN A ROW, WE RECEIVED FROM THE N.Y.S. DEPT. OF TAXES AND FINANCE 33% PERCENT INCREASE 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 Hauppauge,N.Y. with other 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.

We have, at this time also assisted over 35 members and their families with assistance based on Disability, indigency, medical equipment, and Death Disability. 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

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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 465 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 seventy members in August go up to Buffalo(Main-Transit)Drill and parade convention, to cheer on the Freeport Red Devils motorized tournament team. And I want to Congratulate – Chief Anthony Sotira and those members participating on taking 1st 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 24 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.

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 28TH 2025.**

Fraternally yours,
President
David Baer
David Baer

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Fall general membership meeting

Oct 28, 2025, 7:45 – 10:00 PM (America/New_York)

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

https://meet.goto.com/850889429

You can also dial in using your phone.

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Top-Life Members Presentation

L-R President Baer Presents Life Member Cards To Vice President Nicolino, Joe Falco, Sr. Brian Bonora Sr.(Missing William Chimeri,Jeff Stevens)

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Current Executive Board

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