



HUNTINGTON

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Serving the Huntington Community Since 1843

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COMMISSIONERS' CORNER

Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)

The Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) is an extremely important program designed to retain and reward volunteer firefighters for years of service to their local communities.

The Huntington Fire District requested and received taxpayer approval for a LOSAP program in 1990. The benefit granted was \$20.00 for each year of service up to a maximum of forty (40) years. A member could start receiving this benefit only when he or she reached the entitlement age of 65.

This coming December, the Board of Fire Commissioners will ask the Huntington Fire District taxpayers to improve the existing LOSAP plan by increasing the annual stipend from \$20.00 to \$30.00 for each year of service. Voting on this important matter will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at the Leverich Place firehouse. Your approval will assist all eligible and future eligible firefighters, and it will also aid in recruiting new members to serve our great community.

LOSAP Background:

In 1998, the New York State legislature passed legislation that authorized fire districts to enact a Length of Service Award Program. The legislation did not impose this, but enabled local municipalities to implement LOSAP with the express approval of the taxpayers of each individual fire district.

Since the original legislation was enacted, several amendments were made

to the law which allowed for some improvements in Length of Service Award Programs. One change allowed volunteers to



See LOSAP: A Brief Look, continued on page 2.

Welcome New Chiefs!



BRIAN KEANE

When Brian became Chief of the Huntington Fire Department for 2019, it was the culmination of service to the Department and the Huntington community that began in 1996. In 2002, he was elected 2nd Lieutenant, in 2004 1st Lieutenant and in 2006, Captain. Brian went on to become 3rd Deputy Chief in 2014, 2nd Deputy Chief in 2016, Assistant Chief in 2018 and Chief of the Department in 2019. A lifetime Huntington resident, Brian is currently planning a wedding in November 2019 to his fiancée Brynn.



SCOTT DODGE

Scott Dodge joined the Department in 1999 and has proudly served as a Hose Company member, rising from 2nd Lieutenant to Captain. Scott's family connection to Huntington dates to the early 1700s, and he inherited the spirit of volunteering from his dad and great-grandfather, both Greenlawn firefighters.



SEAN SCHWIER

Sean Schwier joined the Protection Hook and Ladder Company in 2005. A fourth-generation Huntington Fire Department member, Sean follows in the footsteps of his father, grandfather, great-uncle and great-grandfather. Sean was elected 2nd Lieutenant in 2012, followed by two years as 1st Lieutenant, and rose to Captain in 2016. In 2018, he was elected to the position of 3rd Deputy Chief.



PAUL SMITH

3rd Deputy Chief Paul Smith joined the Protection Engine Co. in May, 1985. Elected 2nd Lieutenant in 1987, Paul moved up through the ranks to Captain in 1991. In 2002, he was appointed as Safety Officer, served on our Grievance Committee and was elected Assistant Chaplain in 2017. Paul was Firefighter of the Year in 2017.

COMMISSIONERS' CORNER *continued*

LOSAP: A Brief Look, continued from cover.

start to receive their benefit at an earlier age. (In 2010, the Huntington Fire District proposed lowering the Entitlement Age to 60 years of age. This was put to vote and the taxpayers approved this recommendation).

LOSAP: A Brief Look

In 1990, after Huntington Fire District taxpayers voted to begin a Length of Service Award Program, the Board of Fire Commissioners chose an actuary and a provider for the plan's financial and administrative services. The program commenced in 1991. Several years later an analysis showed that the plan could be improved by going from a fixed annuity plan to an equity investment package. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was published and, as a result, a new actuary and investment firm were retained.

This change has proved to be very successful. After consultation with our actuary, the assumed rate of return established by the Board, was 6.5%. This rate has been met every year since, the exception being 2018, due to a stock market anomaly in December of that year. This consistent success has enabled the Huntington Fire District to keep the budgetary allocation for this plan to less than 5% of the total budget, an outcome that will remain true even with the proposed plan improvement increasing the annual stipend.

Sincerely,
Edmund M. Erickson
Fire Commissioner

UPCOMING VOTE:

We urge all taxpayers to vote for the proposed improvement to the Length of Service Award Program on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at the Leverich Place firehouse.



Hello Neighbors,

I am honored to serve as Chief of the Huntington Fire Department for 2019, in our 176th year of volunteer service to the community. On behalf of the Department, I would like to thank Ex-Chief Rob Conroy for all he has achieved. I am proud to have served alongside him.

JOIN US!

The Huntington Fire Department is an all-volunteer Department, and increasing our membership is the best way to further protect the Huntington community. Please consider joining us. Benefits to joining the HFD include:

- Training to become a New York State Class A Firefighter through the Suffolk County Fire Academy, along with other training that will help you provide protection for your neighbors.

- LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program).
- Attendance at parades and other events where you can bring your family to enjoy the festivities.
- Membership in a unique and historic organization.
- A close-knit bond with other dedicated volunteers.
- Personal satisfaction by helping your neighbors in their time of need.

Interested in becoming a Huntington Fire Department member? Go to our website (huntingtonfiredept.org), or stop by the firehouse in person at any time to fill out an application. We look forward to seeing you!

Yours truly,
Brian Keane
Chief, Huntington Fire Department

Fire Facts & Safety Tips

In a given year, more than 25,000 people are injured and over 4,000 people are killed in fires in the USA alone. Fire devastation costs approximately \$10 billion annually, and the worst part is that the majority of these tragedies could have been prevented by observing and practicing the following rules:



- DO** Immediately call your fire department when you suspect a fire! Never assume anyone else has called.
- DO** Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors and test them monthly.
- DO** Have a family escape plan and practice evacuation, especially for children and for seniors.
- DO** Always clean the filter to remove concentrated lint in your clothes dryer after each use.
- DO** Keep your Fire Department's phone number handy in your home and on your cell phone.

- DON'T** Never go back inside a burning building for any reason.
- DON'T** Do not overload electrical extension cords or outlets.
- DON'T** Never use space heaters near combustible or flammable materials.
- DON'T** Smoking is the leading cause of civilian home fire deaths. Never smoke in bed, or better yet, inside a house or building.
- DON'T** Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home structure fires and fire injuries. Be careful when cooking!
- DON'T** Using a barbecue or storing propane indoors is an invitation to disaster. Don't do it!
- DON'T** Never use gasoline, charcoal lighter or other fuel to light/relight a fire. Vapors can explode!

Milestones



POP SCHWIER AWARD UNsung HERO AWARD

Congratulations to Neil Getter

Neil Getter has volunteered his time and energy to the Huntington Fire Department since November 14th of 1989. Thus, it is no surprise that at our recent installation dinner, Neil was Recognized with both the Unsung Hero Award and the 4th Annual Clifford "Pop" Schwier Award. Congratulations Neil on two jobs well done!

Neil Getter recognized at the Huntington Fire Department installation dinner.



FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Firefighter of the Year 2018 is Michael Friel. Michael has been a member of the Huntington Fire Department since July, 2016 and is currently 2nd Lieutenant in the Hose Company.

Congratulations, Michael!

Election Results

Michael Plant is New HFD Commissioner.

In the December 2018 election, Michael F. Plant was elected to the Huntington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners. Commissioner Plant is a 17-year member of the Protection Hook & Ladder Co. and also serves as 2nd Lieutenant for the Protection Hook & Ladder Co. As he stated in a previous issue of Huntington Fire District News, "I joined the Department after September 11 because I felt the call to serve our community." Mike began his five-year term, effective January 1, 2019, and will continue to serve the Huntington community in his new capacity.



With deepest regrets, we honor the memories of two members who rendered years of outstanding service to the Huntington Fire Department and to the Huntington community.

Nicholas Crocco joined Protection Engine Co. #1 on Valentine's Day, 1965 and gave for over 50 years. Aside from his activities as a firefighter, he participated in the Fire Prevention Program by attending school visitations, and in our annual Open House. Nicholas later served for years with the Fire Police Squad.

Gregory Hallinan achieved a rare feat...60 years of service to the Huntington community, a career that began when the current Leverich Place HQ was under construction. Gregory joined the HFD at age 18 on May 14, 1958, following his father who signed on in 1919. Gregory served in Fire Police and was a lieutenant and honorary Chief. A lifelong Huntington resident, Gregory and his wife Pauline raised three children here.

HUNTINGTON

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

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Michael F. Plant

District Manager: Bruce Smith

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District Counsel: Joseph Frank

Questions or Comments? Email us at hfd230@gmail.com



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Dream Becoming a Reality

HFD MUSEUM IS TAKING SHAPE

It's been 176 years in the making...but a Huntington Fire Department museum commemorating the legacy of the Department will soon become a reality with apparatus, antique vehicles, photos and important archival documents...and even original fire house flooring and windows!

Ex-Chief George Bodnar commented, "The project is a labor of love that has been in progress for a number of years, and we're closing in on an official launch date for 2020." The Museum Committee includes Ex-Captain Nick Ambrosio, Ex-Captain Skip Schwier, Ex-Chief Ken Cochrane and Ex-Chief George Bodnar. Stay tuned!

