THE PULSE

Fall 2007

Chairperson's Message

PULSE CHECK 2007 is history and if you weren’t there you missed an outstanding lineup of speakers including nationally know presenters such as Mike McEvoy and Jon Politis. A surprise ending to the educational sessions was a unique fast paced presentation by The Three Wise EMS Men – Richard Beebe, John Bray and Mike McEvoy. Information for PULSE CHECK 2008 will be on the www.NYSVARA.org web site soon including a $50.00 early registration fee.

We recently received updates on several NYC Council proposals. For Resolution 700 (MetroCards for VACS & VFDs) a letter was written to MTA Executive Director Lee Sander asking the MTA to allocate unlimited-use MetroCards to volunteer emergency service providers in the city and the MTA said no. For Resolution 785 (workers compensation benefits for volunteers) we had a hearing on it on April 30th, and the hearing went well. Councilman Joseph Addabbo, the chair of the Civil Service and Labor Committee, likes the bill (he has 5 volunteer fire departments in his district). Work is being done with the Finance Division of the Council to determine how much providing benefits would cost the city. Intro 519 (wholesale gas for VACs & VFDs through the city) is with the Fire and Criminal Justice Services Committee chaired by Councilman Miguel Martinez. His office said that they will take the issue to him and get back to us about whether or not he wants to hold a hearing.

During the overnight hours of Saturday-Sunday 7/14/07-7/15/07 a major FDNY drill was held at the Kings Plaza Shopping Center in Brooklyn. Four volunteer organizations sent ambulances. Broad Channel VFD and Rockaway Point VFD both had personnel with appropriate gear as well as personnel from Flatlands VAC. Personnel from the 4th squad, however, showed up in sneakers and shorts. If you know beforehand about the response there is no excuse for not preparing for it. FDNY personnel contributed to a major lapse in communications as the borough cache of portable radios was apparently forgotten about and no radios were distributed to the volunteer squads on scene. At the LaGuardia Airport drill on 10/20/07 Middle Village VAC and Whitestone VAC participated and there were more than enough radios to go around with each crew member apparently being issued one. So far FDNY EMS is 3 out of 5 on remembering to bring the radios.

The 2008 Volunteer EMS Recognition Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at Russo’s On-The-Bay. The last day to reserve tables at the discounted price of $300 for a table of ten is December 31st. Sponsors and Journal advertisers are needed to keep the prices low for volunteers. For reservations or information about the dinner contact Martin Grillo at (718) 474-0680 or info@emmnc.com or go to the web site at www.emsdinner.com/vac.htm

Ryan
DISTRICT 4 ELECTION RESULTS

Elections were held 7/12/07 for District 4 officers for 2007-2008. Results were:

- Chairperson..............Ryan Gunning, Glendale VAC
- Vice Chairperson........Helen Fries, Glendale VAC
- Treasurer................Nancy Ehrhardt, Glen Oaks VAC
- Financial Secretary.....Fran Serrentino, Forest Hills VAC
- Recording Secretary....Sara Kaye, West Hamilton Beach VFD
- Director..................Charles Hummel, Glendale VAC

REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL OF NYC

Newly elected At-large members are:
- Vincent Barranco, EMT-P, Jamaica Hospital EMS
- Charles Hummel, PhD, EMT, Glendale VAC & West Queens EMT Institute
- Mordechai Lax, EMT-P, MediSys Health Network
- Scott Orlandski, EMT, SeniorCare Ambulance
- Michael Raiola, EMT, Midwood & Lifeline Ambulance Services

Leaving the Council after serving from 1999 to 2007 were Dr. Nikolaos Alexandrou, Carmelita Blake, EdD, RN, Dr. Arthur Cooper and Michael Vatch.

Web casting of the monthly Regional Council and REMAC meetings pursuant to an Executive Order issued by Governor Spitzer began with the October 2007 meetings.

NYS DOH funds two (2) Program Agencies, the Regional EMS Council of NYC and FDNY, to provide various services to EMS agencies in New York City. With formulation of a budget request for the 2008-2009 fiscal year it seemed that some FDNY services and funding mainly related to PCRs were either of questionable value or internal FDNY expenses. The Regional Council wrote to the NYS DOH recommending that the FDNY Program Agency be discontinued and funding be directed to the Council which could then contract directly with FDNY to continue those tasks which are of regional worth including the REMAC Liaison and the responsibilities associated with that position. FDNY has indicated that it feels that if there is to be one Program Agency serving NYC it should be in charge of it. NYS DOH Bureau of EMS has replied to the Council stating that a meeting would be held to discuss the issue.

REMAC

AEDs are mandatory on all BLS ambulances in the New York City Region effective 7/1/08.

Revised and updated NYC regional prehospital treatment and transport protocols have been approved by the NYS Emergency Medical Advisory Committee. A list of all revised protocols summarizing changes along with actual protocols identifying specific changes was e-mailed to all EMS agencies in the city on 10/18/07. Complete updated protocols can be accessed at the Regional EMS Council website: www.nycremsco.org CFR Protocols have also been revised, but will be disseminated separately. A training program in PowerPoint format will be available shortly. Revised protocols/procedures on STEMI (ST Elevation/Myocardial Infarction and Suspected Cyanide Toxicity/Smoke Inhalation may be implemented immediately. Remaining protocols are to be implemented beginning 1/1/08. All EMS personnel must be updated by 7/1/08.

Owners/operators of Ambulance and ALS First Response Services are responsible to provide copies of the NYC REMAC Prehospital Treatment Protocols to their personnel and to ensure that Service Medical Directors and EMS personnel are informed of all changes/updates to the NYC REMAC Prehospital Treatment Protocols. In order to provide evidence that all EMS personnel have been updated in current protocols, the EMS Agency must provide a list of updated personnel accompanied by a letter of affirmation signed by the service medical director and Chief Executive Officer no later than four (4) weeks after completion of training/in-service.

WaterJel study proposed by Juan Acosta, MD was tabled. St. Barnabas Hospital representatives will be requested to attend the next REMAC meeting on 11/13/07.

The NYC REMAC Certification & Credentialing subcommittee reviewed recent pilot questions on the written paramedic exam revealing that most candidates had difficulty with questions regarding these aspects of BLS care:

- Ventilatory assistance rate for the newly born;
- Criteria for determination of compensated shock;
- Dose of Activated Charcoal to the pediatric patient.

In the past candidates had difficulty with:

- Epinephrine use for pediatric patients;
- 12-lead EKG interpretation;
- inclusion criteria for CPAP.
TRAINING & EDUCATION

The Regional Council at its 6/26/07 meeting tabled a request from Kingsborough Community College to conduct a one time EMT-Basic course at the college. The course would have been held under the sponsorship of the Regional Training Center for EMTs which is authorized to provide BLS level courses only in Queens. Council staff was asked to survey current Brooklyn training centers as to whether or not they were asked about providing courses at Kingsborough and their capability to do so. The college indicated that if successful it would apply for its own course sponsorship and is considering offering both EMT and paramedic level courses.

FDNY NEWS

To reduce the time from identification of the STEMI (ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction) patient to the catherization laboratory, ambulances in the NYC 911 system will be directed to transport STEMI patients directly to a 24/7 interventional cardiac catherization capable hospital facility. In official parlance these are being called therapeutic Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) Centers. Cardiac Catherization Center and Emergency Department Directors were informed about the initiative at a June meeting at MetroTech. The FDNY EMS Station Drill (CME) for September explained the STEMI program and provided training materials and case scenarios. The program was put into effect on 10/15/07. The list of participating hospitals includes 2 in the Bronx, 5 in Brooklyn, 9 in Manhattan, 3 in Queens, 1 on Staten Island and 1 in nearby western Nassau County. At some point in the future NYS DOH’s Cardiac Advisory Committee is expected to develop criteria for designation of STEMI centers throughout the state including an application process, reporting requirements and a monitoring plan.

The NY Post reported June 18th that some female EMS employees were considering an EEO suit over mandated respirator retraining. 12 of 14 medics who failed were female. All have over 10 years on the job and one has prior training in “chemical emergency response”. Two are also plaintiffs in a discrimination lawsuit against FDNY over promotions. The paper reports about half of the 40 EMTs who failed respirator training were female. The FDNY response was that it was not an issue of discrimination but an “issue of safety”.

A new $12.4 million EMS station will be build at 243 East 233 Street near the Bronx River Parkway to serve the communities of Woodlawn, Riverdale and Kingsbridge, consolidating the work of six ambulances based out of three stations into a single facility. The 5,300-square-foot facility will include a captain’s office, training and equipment storage areas, a separate decontamination area, as well as locker facilities and bathrooms for up to 100 employees. The site is the former location of Ladder Company 39 which was relocated in 2006 to the quarters of Engine Company 63, because of the structural deterioration of the century-old firehouse, the last wood frame firehouse in the City.

Gerald Neville has been appointed to the new position of Director of the Bureau of Communications. This position will oversee all EMS and fire operations dispatch plus telephone systems, Field Communication Units and Mobile Command Centers. The position reports to the Chief of Communications. Mr. Neville reportedly has 37 years of dispatch experience.

Kips Bay EMS Station, Battalion 8, will occupy 6,100 square feet of a new $290 million, 340,000 square-foot facility on East 26 Street in Manhattan. Approximately 100 EMS personnel will staff six ambulances operating from the station. Included are supply storage, a decontamination bay and shower facilities. This brings the total number of EMS stations citywide to 32, including 16 added by the FDNY since the 1996 merger, and 9 since the beginning of Mayor Bloomberg’s Administration.

A Staten Island based FDNY ambulance responding to an emergency call was flipped on its side after a collision with a tow truck on Tuesday 8/21/07. The accident took place about 5:00 PM as the ambulance was going the wrong way on Delafield Avenue and crossed the intersection of Broadway into the path of the oncoming tow truck owned by Fix-A-Dent company. Both EMTs were taken to Richmond University Medical Center in West Brighton for treatment of minor injuries. The tow driver reported he had complained his arm felt sore. The tow driver said the ambulance’s lights and siren were off but an independent witness said he did hear a siren before the crash.

John Clair, former FDNY EMS Assistant Commissioner for Medical Affairs, was fined $6,500 by the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board for taking thousands of dollars in gifts from a contractor according to a 7/12/07 article in the NY Post. Clair acknowledged to the board "that my acceptance of the gifts [was] inappropriate." In his position, Clair was partly responsible for evaluating a $4.3 million billing contract with ScanHealth. The company reportedly paid $2,952 for him to attend a conference in Hawaii and $1,129 for another in Atlanta and bought him dinners and tickets to "Mamma Mia!" Clair worked for FDNY from 2000 until 2005 when he was apparently forced to resign from his $109,000 job after the conflicts were brought to light. In April 2005 Clair attended a joint District 4 and 18 meeting at Jamaica Hospital and spoke about electronic collection of PCR/ACR data and ScanHealth’s e-PCR product. ScanHealth has changed its name to Sansio Healthcare Solutions.
350 probie firefighters started CFR training in August. 1,200 CFR firefighters are scheduled to start refreshers during the fall.

The number of full 8 hour tours by 911 system ambulances appears to have declined. Comparing the last two years month to month, year to year has shown a decline in total average daily tours from the 940s in 2005 to the 920s with some 910s:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>BLS Tours</th>
<th>Total Tours</th>
<th></th>
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<th>BLS Tours</th>
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<tr>
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<td>607.9</td>
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<td>321.4</td>
<td>602.2</td>
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| 2006  |           |           |             | 2007  |           |           |             |
| January | 323.4     | 608.1     | 931.6       | January | 320.2     | 612.0     | 932.3       |
| February | 322.4     | 601.7     | 924.1       | February | 319.7     | 610.1     | 929.8       |
| March   | 322.5     | 598.4     | 920.9       | March   | 320.7     | 597.0     | 917.7       |
| April   | 321.1     | 599.1     | 920.2       | April   | 319.9     | 601.3     | 921.3       |
| May     | 319.1     | 605.7     | 924.8       | May     | 321.0     | 600.4     | 921.5       |
| June    | 323.8     | 604.3     | 928.2       | June    | 324.9     | 608.1     | 933.0       |
| July    | 317.8     | 592.9     | 910.8       | July    | 321.3     | 608.4     | 929.6       |
| August  | 314.2     | 599.0     | 913.2       | August  | 321.8     | 600.6     | 922.3       |
| September | 314.8    | 600.9     | 915.7       | September | 317.5    | 603.1     | 920.6       |

Citywide 911 System EMS response times

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<td>6:37</td>
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**FDNY LIASION COMMITTEE**

The quarterly Liaison Committee meeting was held on Monday evening 9/17/07. The Mutual Aid Response System (MARS) radio was the subject of a number of comments received from squads before the meeting. These included:

- Someone should be reachable on the MARS radio 24/7, which is not happening now.
- No one answers on the radio. Why?
- When MARS desk is called on the phone they were asked why no one answers the radio and they were laughed at.
- Squad was told that no one will be manning the MARS radio.
- MARS desk has no dispatcher constantly.

At the meeting FDNY representatives assured everyone present that they will really have someone monitoring the MARS frequency and that person will really have the Borough dispatcher add volunteer squads to assignments when they call in. However, on Friday evening 9/21 a squad tried to do a radio check and got no response. They called RCC and was told the MARS desk is not manned. They called the MARS number and spoke to a supervisor who said there is no MARS radio and the station is not manned. The squad indicated the officer seemed rude and the “person’s voice indicated that they did not want to answer any calls or be bothered with the volunteers”. The exchange was passed on to our Liaisons at FDNY EMS for whatever action they deem necessary.

FDNY positions on issues were changed from what was said at the previous meeting. In June we were told that additional volunteer units from the same squad could be logged on to MARS with extra identifiers already in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system such as A101, A301, etc. but we are now told that will only be done for special events. In June
we were told that squads could have their own 800 MHz portables programmed with MARS frequencies and now that will not be done because VACs can only have one unit logged on at a time.

FDNY is not interested in expanding the categories of calls assigned to VACs under mutual aid since, as per the FDNY representatives, no calls are ever assigned under mutual aid. When asked about adding VAC units to the CAD assignment string the FDNY reps brought up the subject of agreements incorporating volunteer squads meeting requirements similar to those of voluntary hospitals into the 911 system. Yogi Berra’s reported quote of “deju vu all over again” came to mind as about three or four years ago two squads, Flatlands VAC & Whitestone VAC, were on the verge of signing such agreements when FDNY dropped the whole idea.

A number of squads reported their new MARS 800 MHz Motorola XTS 5000R portable radios were in MUTE mode. At the Liaison meeting there was a technician from the radio shop who explained the MUTE indication on the screen referred only to keystroke confirmations and not to the microphone and/or speaker. The speaker worked but apparently there was no one at the MARS desk and that is why squads received no replies to their transmissions. There is no manual available for the radios provided to VACs. The translation of this bureaucratic statement is that FDNY has the manuals supplied by Motorola with the radios but will not give them out. Instead FDNY will try and come up with some written operating instructions for VAC crews.

Only 911 system units and not VACs are permitted to transmit on 400 MHz FDNY EMS frequencies except on the special Motorola XTS 3500R portable radios distributed at disaster mobilizations. However, the disaster mobilization radio cache was forgotten about and not brought to the drill at Kings Plaza Mall in Brooklyn but was remembered and brought to the drill at Penn Station in Manhattan on Sunday 8/26/07. So far, the cache was remembered by EMS Division Captain on duty at the time and brought to three drills but forgotten at two others for a 60% success rate.

PPE discussion covered FDNY wanting VAC personnel attired in tan jackets and trousers with orange/silver striping meeting NFPA 1999 standard for Blood Borne Pathogen (BBP) and NFPA 1951 Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) standard. National and NYC REMSCO recommendations, however, call for rescue style jackets meeting the NFPA 1999 standard.

HazTac and rescue training is only provided to FDNY EMS personnel due to the cost of providing it and the need to maintain skills through regular assignments.

On-line medical control is only provided to 911 system units. VACs needing to consult a physician must contact their own on-line resource except in mutual aid situations assigned by 911 dispatch - if that ever should happen.

Squads needing new 911 Participating Ambulance decals should contact Lt. Stacy Scanlon at (718) 999-2953 or e-mail her at Scanlos@fdny.nyc.gov. Information on new vehicles needs to be provided and old decals, whatever shape they are in, need to be returned.

For the quarter June through August volunteer units were placed on a total of 18 assignments by the MARS desk. June: 4 calls - Glen Oaks, Jamaica Estates-Holliswood-South Bayside, Queens Village-Hollis-Bellerose and Throggs Neck July: 9 calls - Broad Channel, Flatlands, Flushing (2), Forest Hills, Glendale (2), Glen Oaks and Rockaway Point August: 5 calls - College Point, Forest Hills (2), Rockaway Point and Throggs Neck FDNY acknowledges that no mutual aid calls are assigned to VACs and it is hit or miss if VAC requests to be put on calls they are on scene at are actually entered into the computer system.

AED TRAINER FROM RED CROSS AT $49.95

The American Red Cross has introduced a new device as a cost effective solution for providing AED training at a time when training AEDs from manufacturers can cost over $300.00. The generic trainer mimics the features and prompts of many live AEDs. The red and white device has the American Red Cross logo and is sized similar to a live AED but no actual shock is delivered. It features a play/pause button, toggle switches for two scenarios and two languages, English and Spanish. The AED Training Single Unit package includes: (1) AED training device, (1) set of adult pads with adult graphic and yellow connectors, (1) set of child pads with child graphic and blue connectors, (4) AA-Alkaline batteries, (1) screwdriver, and operating instructions for classroom use. It comes with a carrying case. The ON/OFF green button lights up in the ON position and the amber SHOCK button lights when waiting to be depressed and emits a loud sound that continues until the SHOCK button is depressed. Cost for one unit is under $49.95. There is also a six (6) unit set with carrying case that sells for about $260.00. Replacement pad sets, which are good for up to 100 applications, cost about $20.00 for either adult or child. The prices cited are available at the Greater NY Chapter’s store at 520 West 49 Street in Manhattan. Individual Red Cross chapters can set their own prices and Red Cross instructors should contact their local chapter for cost and availability in their area.
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HOSPITAL NEWS

BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER IN NEW YORK, according to the 5 Towns Jewish Times, hired two Hatzalah members as “patient navigators” to better serve the Jewish communities of Manhattan and Brooklyn. The initiative and goals are to increase the overall cultural sensitivity to the Jewish community at all Beth Israel inpatient and outpatient sites, provide services that will better assist Bikur Cholim and Hatzalah ambulance volunteers in their ongoing efforts to save lives and provide special care for ill individuals. The paper indicated one individual has been a paramedic with Hatzalah VAC for 15 years and is from the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. The other has been an EMT with Hatzalah for ten years and is from the Lower East Side of Manhattan. While laudable, such an arrangement could invite scrutiny and perhaps penalties by Medicare and Medicaid which have “anti kickback” regulations prohibiting a hospital from giving anything of value to steer patients to their institution. Even restocking arrangements for dressings, bandages and oxygen masks have come under intense review in the past.

CABRINI MEDICAL CENTER in Manhattan discontinued its ambulance service withdrawing voluntary units 4W and 6L from the 911 System. Replacing those units are FDNY Station 4 unit 4Y and Station 8 unit 6B.

LONG ISLAND JEWISH MEDICAL CENTER’s Department of Emergency Medicine opened Phase I of the newly expanded Emergency Department on Tuesday, August 7th, 2007 at 8:00 AM. This has had a direct impact on all EMS providers as there were the following changes:

- The new ambulance entrance is located in the circle to the right of the Emergency Department’s current entrance.
- EMS providers have their own desk and phone immediately to the left of the new ambulance entrance.
- There are two new pediatric trauma resuscitation bays and a third adult critical care bay directly to the right of the new ambulance entrance.
- Triage booths for ambulatory patients are directly to the left of the ambulance entrance just beyond the EMS desk.
- Backboards are being stored in the lockers in the rear of the decon container on the ED ramp. The decon container is the large grey unit to the right of the ambulance entrance.
- The hospital asks that EMS agencies refrain from making pediatric notifications to the adult hotline. The pediatric hotline is (718) 975-0010.

Phase II is expected to be completed in 8 months. The final phase of the expansion is scheduled for completion in April 2008. This project will make the LIJ ED the most modern facility of its kind in the area. LIJ administrators have expressed that they consider EMS providers a vital part of the expansion and are asking for input as they move into the new facility. Should you have any comments, suggestions or complaints please call (718) 470-7501.

LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER’s Emergency Department has seen a 15% increase of patients over the past year, with the daily average of 147 patients rising to 169. With waiting time also climbing, the hospital’s administration organized a multidisciplinary team to create a program that they claim has seen incredible results - all patients are triaged in the Lutheran ED in less than five minutes.

MERCY MEDICAL CENTER in Rockville Centre, Nassau County has been designated Hospital #68 in the NYC EMS 911 System. Since travel time to the hospital exceeds the 10 minute rule, FDNY and voluntary hospital ambulances encountering patients requesting to be brought to the hospital must contact On-Line Medical Control for approval. NYC REMSCO General Operating Procedures allows transport of a stable or potentially unstable patient to an “alternative destination” other than the nearest NYC 911 Emergency Department per patient request and the additional transport time is less than 10 minutes or it is approved by an agency’s on-line medical control physician.

ST. JOSEPH’S MEDICAL CENTER in Yonkers, hospital #96 in the NYC 911 System, has been approved by the NYS DOH as a Stroke Center.

ST. VINCENT’S MIDTOWN HOSPITAL closed on 8/31/07 and its voluntary units 7N, 9C, 9D, 7X and 9W were discontinued. Replacing those units in the 911 system are FDNY Station 8 units 7B (redeployed) and new units 7Y, 9E and 9X plus 9A from St. Luke’s-Roosevelt.

WOODHULL MEDICAL & MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, hospital #45 in the NYC 911 system, is on permanent diversion to Critical Pediatrics effective 8/29/07.

NEWS ABOUT NYC EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS

AVIATION VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY in the Bronx was the subject of a cover story in the Sunday edition of the NY Daily News on 7/29/07. The department received about $530,000 in post 9/11 donations and has little to show for it. $60,000 was donated to repair a 1980 American LaFrance 1,000 gpm pumper with a 500 gallon tank damaged at the WTC. The Greater
NY Automobile Dealers Association is credited with refurbishing the truck and it was displayed at the 2002 Automobile Show at the Javits Center in Manhattan but now sits unused in weeds at a yacht club. Goldman Sachs donated $280,000 for a new fire truck and $164,000 was spent for a 2001 demo unit Spartan/Luverne 1,250 gpm pumper with a 1,000 gallon tank demo unit which was subsequently resold to a dealer for about $130,000 eventually winding up with Beech Island VFD in South Carolina as its first line unit. Goldman Sachs indicated the extra funds were returned. Franconia VFD in Fairfax, Virginia donated a 1988 Emergency One 1,500 gpm pumper with a 750 gallon tank but after it was repainted from yellow to white over red it was sold off for about $15,000 to $18,000 and is now with Benld VFD in Illinois as a reserve truck. A donor gave $36,000 for a used ambulance which was repainted red at a cost of $8,000 and then resold in January for $15,000 to a squad near Syracuse — the chief didn’t remember the squad’s name. Another ambulance donated by East Brentwood VFD in Suffolk County was in turn donated in 2003 to a home for needy children in Texas. Aviation, however, has never had a NYS DOH Ambulance Operating Certificate. A $2,000 inflatable boat donated in 2003 by Tylersport VFC in Pennsylvania now has holes and is unusable. No IRS Form 990 has been filed since 2002. The headquarters building was condemned in 2003 and the Harding Park Homeowners Association which owns the property is building a community center on the site. In addition to the vehicles there were also a number of cash donations. Despite apparently operating minimally, if at all, the chief said $77,000 a year has been spent on equipment storage, insurance, pagers and fuel plus money has been spent on lawyers, new gear, high-tech cameras and for an architect. A follow-up article on 8/1 indicated the Bronx District Attorney has launched a probe of the organization.

BED-STUY VAC has a new web site at www.bsvac.org. The squad received a $20,000 technical assistance grant from Independence Community Foundation which was used to develop the new website and to recruit administrative support. The grant will also be used to help with Board training and financial planning. The technical assistance is being provided by Community Resource Exchange, a leading organization in the provision of services to the non-profit sector.

BENSONHURST VAC has returned to service. The new headquarters is located at 8310 17 Avenue which was their original HQ before the New Utrecht Avenue location. Phone numbers remain the same: business (718) 837-5032, emergency (718) 256-1211 and fax (718) 331-4744. Mailing address is PO Box 140147, Brooklyn, NY 11214

BROOKLYN COLLEGE EMS is looking to reconnect with its alumni members. However, a lot of their contact info is severely out of date. Please send your updated info including e-mail, phone, address and years volunteered to the Squad Administrator, Fred Kneitel. You can e-mail him at scubaemt@hotmail.com or call the squad at (718) 951-5859.

CARITAS HEALTH CARE transferred 2005 Ford E-350/Wheeled Coach Citi Medic model ambulances from Wyckoff Hospital to Mary Immaculate Hospital EMS and St. John’s Hospital EMS with each facility receiving one vehicle. The ambulances have the Caritas logo and lettering for each hospital and retain Wyckoff’s wide blue and red beltline stripes but separated by a narrower gold stripe. The vehicles were originally part of a four vehicle purchase that was funded by the NYC Council.

EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE, INC. based in Hauppauge has acquired NYS DOH Ambulance Operating Certificate #0572 formerly held by Phoenix Transport Corporation d/b/a Emergency Ambulance Service. The certificate covers Queens County east of the Van Wyck Expressway plus Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Shareholders of the new corporation are Eyal Ben Yosef, President; Arik Eshel, Vice President and Miriam Moussaieff, Secretary.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESCUE OF NYC again coordinated EMS coverage for the NYC Century Bike tour on Sunday 9/9/07. The tour is run annually by Transportation Alternatives and covers 100 miles of city streets in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx. This year there were over 5,600 riders. Volunteer agencies covering parts of the tour included Glendale VAC, Glen Oaks VAC, Jamaica Estates-Holliswood-South Bayside VAC and Park Slope VAC. AMR supplied two ambulances and a supervisor.

FOREST HILLS VAC’s president Dave Solomon, 55, retired during the summer from after 18 active years with the squad (and 36 years with Con Edision). He and his wife Linda will drive across country and move into a house in Albany, Oregon that they purchased sight unseen. Linda, a native Oregonian, met Dave in NY and also served as an EMT with Forest Hills.

HATZALAH

- FLATBUSH DIVISION played NYPD Highway 2 in a charity softball game at Keyspan Park in Coney Island on Tuesday 7/31/07. Tickets were $10.00 and all proceeds of the game went to the family of injured Highway 2 officer Scot Abrams who has been in a wheelchair since a motorcycle crash last year. Final score was NYPD 6 & Hatzalah 5. For a number of years Flattush Hatzalah has been playing weekly summer games against various NYC agencies such as NYPD and FDNY to foster a spirit of camaraderie and friendship.
- FLATBUSH DIVISION ambulance was involved in a collision at Avenue U and Ocean Parkway on Tuesday morning 9/4/07. The patient from the ambulance was transferred to another Hatzalah ambulance. FDNY EMS treated the driver of the car. The Hatzalah ambulance sustained only minor damage.
- While responding to an emergency a First Responder vehicle was involved in a collision at 75 Avenue and Main Street in Queens on Monday 10/1/07. Reports were that the vehicle appeared badly damaged but there were no injuries to the Hatzalah member.
- QUEENS DIVISION had its Q-4 ambulance marked with swastikas during the early morning hours of 10/18/07. The vehicle was parked in the driveway of Young Israel of Hillcrest at Jewel Avenue & 169 Street which was also spray painted with swastikas. NYPD Hate Crimes Unit is investigating.

HUNTS POINT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY received notice from the NYS DOH that its EMS Agency ID number had been deactivated. Hunts Point is a BLS First Response agency. Such agencies are not regulated by Article 30 or the NYS DOH but NYC Regional standards do exist. Agencies regionally approved will remain so unless the Regional EMS Council of NYC determines otherwise.

LINDENWOOD VAC was chosen as a winner in a Dell Computer Small Business ad contest. Winners received ad space on a billboard in Times Square for two days July 9, 2007 and July 10, 2007.

LITTLE NECK-DOUGLASTON VAC’s Dino Oranges was profiled in the Queens Courier newspaper’s Star of Queens section on 9/13/07. Dino has been a member of the squad since 1981 and president for two years.

METRO-NORTH RAILROAD GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL FIRE & EMS BRIGADE celebrates its 20th year of service in 2007. The 19 person staff, whose regular jobs may be elevator mechanic, electrician, operations manager or meter reader, etc., are all certified firefighters and EMTs and respond to fire and medical emergencies anywhere in the 47 acre terminal. The brigade was formed after a major fire destroyed a number of abandoned rail cars used by homeless squatters. Like fire agencies elsewhere, actual fires have declined due to prevention activities going from 176 track fires in 1987 to 17 in 2006, however, EMS calls for employees, commuters, travelers and visitors have increased. Last year there were 744 medical responses – an average of more that two a day. The brigade apparatus is a small electric powered cart with a compliment of firefighting and EMS equipment including an AED needed to control a situation until backup arrives. NYS DOH recognizes the agency as a non-transporting BLS First Responder and has assigned it an EMS agency code. Metro North has other brigades at rail yards in Croton-Harmon, North White Plains, Stamford, Bridgeport and New Haven.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA) which operates the NYC subway system is considering eliminating the “Sick Customer Response Program”. System wide, sick riders are responsible for approximately 430 delays a month. To minimize these delays, EMTs are posted at seven of the busiest subway stations during rush hours to respond to ill or injured riders, remove them from trains quickly and allow the system to return to normal operations. The NY Daily News reported on 7/31/07 that the MTA projected that it could save about $250,000 a year by eliminating the program. A final decision has not been made.

QUEENS VILLAGE-HOLLIS-BELLEROSE VAC held elections 7/2/07. Officers are Martin J. Braun, President; Barbara Brown-Lax, 1st VP, Jeffrey Arlotta, 2nd VP; Vincent Arlotta, Treasurer and Mark Ramos, Sergeant at Arms. One of the squad’s ambulances was vandalized with graffiti on the night of 9/12/07. Fortunately, cameras picked up the two vandals and the recording was turned over to the NYPD 105th Precinct. A 15 year old & 16 year old were arrested 10/30/07.

ROCK VAC was sent a letter by the NYS DOH to investigate whether or not the agency has been responding to requests for EMS since 1/07. The letter also states none of the agency’s vehicles are registered with the NYS DMV. If proof of operation is not submitted the NYS DOH may revoke ROCK VAC’s ambulance operating certificate.

ST. VINCENT’S CATHOLIC MEDICAL CENTERS OF NY has acquired NYS DOH Ambulance Operating Certificate #7249 formerly held by St. Vincent’s Midtown Hospital (St. Clare’s). The certificate covers Manhattan from 34 Street to 55 Street. St. Vincent’s CMC already has NYS DOH Certificate #0804 which covers Kings County (Brooklyn) and Manhattan south of 59th Street.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FIRE, RESCUE & EMS MEGA SHOW at the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Uniondale, Saturday 1/26/08, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Sunday 1/27/08, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

PULSE CHECK 2008, the 53rd Annual Educational Conference & Trade Show of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association will be held Thursday evening September 18, 2008 to Sunday morning September 21, 2008 at the Hudson Valley Resort, Kerhonkson, Ulster County, NY - only 90 minutes from NYC. Event features seminars, exhibits, statewide EMT/CFR team skills drill and ambulance drill competitions, memorial service and awards dinner. Information will posted on the Association’s web site at www.nysvara.org covering conference registration, room reservations, list of seminars, Drill application, trophy donations, golf outing and Journal ads. There is also information on the web site about nominations for the Association’s annual awards and scholarships. If more information is needed call (877) NYSVARA or e-mail pulsecheck@NYSVARA.org
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