**Chaplain Joseph McCarthy**

**NYSAFC**

**2021 Annual Report**

Since the last report, I have spoken at 4 Long Island Fire Department/ Chiefs Meetings on the increasingly important role of Fire Chaplains in the Fire Service and encouraged future development of newer Chaplains.

I've enlisted one Chaplain from Central Island and we're now in the beginning of the Application process.

My intentions are to personally visit all Fire Departments in the South Region, either via ZOOM or in person. This is a major undertaking, as there are approximately 180-200 Agencies involved.

My intention is to encourage and enlist younger (not necessarily YOUNG!) Fire Chaplains, who are active, involved on several levels, and will help ensure that our Esteemed Organization is able to not only survive, but to increase our membership Statewide.

**April 1 – August 31, 2021**

During the last reporting period, I have participated in several events as a Member/Director of the NYSAFC...

\* Attended several Suffolk County Fire Association Meetings, explaining the Mission and benefits of our Organization.

\* Worked with a County Fire Chief to provide necessary support for a new Chaplain, who has recently entered our ranks.

Provided support for a Fellow Chaplain who was in charge of several public events.

\* Offered the Invocation and Benediction Prayers for the Rocky Point, L.I. 9/11 Memorial Services

\* Our Brother Chaplain Tom Mendenhall, from East Quogue, L.I., recently passed away from COVID-19. He was my friend, my partner, my Brother Chaplain in several Fire Organizations in Suffolk County, as well as with our Organization. With a heavy heart, but with deep faith in Tom's Eternal Salvation, I officiated at his Firematic Service. May his soul rest In Peace.

\* Represented our Organization, along with my several fellow Chaplains, in the Presentation of a Proclamation to the family of Chaplain Thomas Mendenhall, at his Firematic Service.

\* Communicated with several Chaplains and Chiefs regarding building up the ranks of our membership.

\* Prayers offered daily for all of our Chaplains.

My work on behalf of our Organization during this previous Quarter consisted of meeting with several Chaplains on Long Island and sharing info with them about our Mission, and hopefully enlisting them.

I assisted two other Chaplains with information about holding Services for their Departments.

As Senior Chaplain for the Fire Chiefs Council of Suffolk County, I participate in many Firematic Services and I find that I have many opportunities to reach out to Chaplains who are not yet members of NYSAFC, and I share info with them in the hopes of enlisting them.

My efforts will continue.

**September 1, 2021 – March 31, 202**

During this latest reporting period, I was recuperating from surgery, but was still active to the degree that I could be.

I was in contact with several Long Island Chaplains, advising as to procedures, sending cards and emails, and encouraging members of the Fire Service on Long Island to consider becoming Fire Chaplains.

Additionally, I partnered with a close friend who is a former Seal Team 6 Member, and we are in the process of delivering 13 Memorials to the 13 Families of those who were killed in the Afghan Evacuation.

This is a Nonpartisan joint effort, and these Memorials are being presented on behalf of the NYSAFC and my Seal Team 6 friend. More to follow...

I've served as Lead Chaplain for several Firematic Events.

I've been working diligently to enlist newer members into our Organization... it's a very difficult process. Most younger potential candidates simply cannot afford the extra time and expense that we senior guys know that it takes, to be effective.

One of the most important aspects of my mission as a Deputy Chief will be to ensure that we are funded to the degree that will enable us to perform our duties more effectively, without bearing the full weight of all associated costs.

It's all about Networking...

We need to share our Passion with others, and successfully enlist them into our Organization. If we do not, we will age out.

We simply can NOT let that happen.

Let's all think seriously about this, and discuss it at our upcoming Zoom Meeting.

In addition to the above, like many of you, I recently became aware of the unfinished status of the very important QUILT, the Labor of Love began by our Chaplain Caroline...

We were notified that it would cost approximately $300 to finish this project. I decided that I would fund it, only because if it wasn't funded, it may languish for even longer. My thought process was, and is, There's No Time Like The Present! That said, there's a finish line in sight, and I'm grateful for that. It's quite a project, and thanks to Chaplain Caroline Higgins for her efforts.

I think we ALL ought to think seriously about engaging our local Town Reps, as well as our County and State Reps, in supporting our precious NYSAFC. I've queried several organizations, and every single one has pledged their support.

If we have adequate funding, we can better ensure our Organization's Longevity and Prosperity. It's time.

Sincerely,

Chaplain Joe McCarthy