



SALTAIRE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Saltaire Volunteer Fire Company (SVFC) is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit that provides fire suppression and emergency medical services (EMS) to the Saltaire Fire and EMS districts by contract with the Village of Saltaire.

Headed by a Chief of Department and a President, the SVFC receives funding from the Village as part of a contract; from generous resident and visitor donations; and from grants from State and Federal governments.

The SVFC was incorporated in 1969 and is part of a firefighting tradition in the Village of Saltaire that goes back over a century. It is an honor to serve to our community.

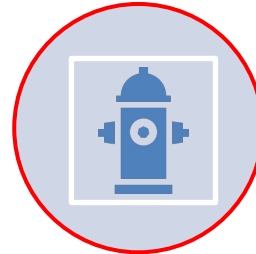
2023 OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The SVFC had a another near record-breaking year in 2023 with 102 calls. This continues the trend of 100+ calls for four consecutive years.
- Included in our 2023 incidents, the SVFC responded to fires in The Pines and Ocean Beach. We also continue to provide on-site standby duties for Village events.
- The SVFC once again this year had paid Paramedics to supplement volunteers and guarantee the higher level of care that our residents expect during the peak Summer and “shoulder” seasons.
- Members responded to calls throughout the Summer and off-season to our community, and provided assistance to neighboring communities across Fire Island.

Challenges and Successes



The Company's vehicle fleet is aging - with several vehicles exceeding or nearing their useful life - and require replacement in the near term.



Increases in membership and equipment requirements have made the existing facility too small for safe and effective operations. The SVFC seeks to collaborate with the Village on smart firehouse infrastructure enhancements.



In addition to Village-appropriated funds, the SVFC has a robust fundraising effort as well as having applied and successfully received multiple grants.



SVFC Members completed over 1500 hours of training in 2023 including several trips to the Suffolk County Fire Academy for "live fire" training.



LOOKING AHEAD...

- The SVFC Executive Committee provided the Board of Trustees with a “State of the Fire Company” letter in December of 2023, and we look forward to our **collaborative efforts** in 2024 to find **sustainable solutions** for long term success of the fire company.
- In 2024, the SVFC will continue to **expand skill-based training** with regular monthly drills as well as two Spring “skills days” where fire and EMS members are asked to demonstrate a series of skills. Gaps in competency are used to determine **future areas for training**.
- The SVFC remains committed to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion, while continually striving to ensure a safe and welcoming work environment.
- We are proud to report that our recent influx of new members has significantly augmented the representation of women within the SVFC.
- The SVFC has **major capital expenditures** on the horizon and continues to fundraise actively. The priority expenditure is the **need for a firehouse renovation/enhancement**, in addition to replacement of 3-18-5 truck.
- It remains a priority of the SVFC to encourage the Village to look at opportunities within VOS staffing to **encourage EMT-B and FF certifications**. Full time employees should be given differentials and incentives for these certifications. The future success of the fire company requires **year-round personnel and paid support**.

SVFC CHIEFS & OFFICERS

AS OF 12/31/2023

Executive Committee
Members

Appointed
Operational Roles

**** Chief ****
Josh Raeben

1st Assistant Chief
Jarrod Bernstein

2nd Assistant Chief
Ted Weinrib

3rd Assistant Chief
Doug Kunreuther

Safety Officer
Jim McDonald

Captain
Byron Golub

Captain
Joseph Rappaport

Captain
Nick Bruening

Captain
Rich Wilde

President and CEO
David Basche

Treasurer
Jim McDonald

Secretary
Jack Lally

ACTIVE MEMBERS

(as of 12/31/2023*)

- David Basche, FF
- Jarrod Bernstein, FF/EMT-B
- Chris Blum, FF
- Nick Breuning, FF
- Byron Golub, FF
- Vern Henriksen, FF
- Doug Kunreuther, FF
- Jack Lally, FF
- Emily Mason, FF
- Jim McDonald, FF/EMT-B
- Maddy Medenica, FF
- Seth Meisel, FF
- Matt Nelson, FF
- Jim O'Brien, FF
- Phil Posillico, FF
- Elizabeth Quilty, FF
- Josh Raeben, FF
- Harry Rappaport, FF
- Joe Rappaport, FF
- Alysia Reiner, FF
- William Rover, EMT-P
- Jon Shepland, FF
- Anthony Smith, FF
- Ryan Smith, FF/EMT-B
- Maureen Tetelman, EMT-B
- Bill Veronese, FF/EMT-P
- Ted Weinrib, EMT-B
- Jimmy Wilde, FF
- Rich Wilde, FF
- Ben Zabar, FF
- Danny Zabar, FF/EMT-B
- Michael Zabar, FF
- Willie Zabar, FF/EMT-B

**"Active Members" includes members on family leave, medical leave, or personal leave.*

AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Ali Beqaj

Robert Mason

Maria Cioce

Eugenie Meluso

Brie Garrison

Cali O'Brien

James Gowan

Catherine O'Brien

Nancy Henriksen

Sarah Raeben

Judy Kunreuther

Christine Schiff

Frank Markus

Tracey Zabar

**NEW MEMBERS
(PROBATIONARY)**

Lila Murphy, EMS

Samantha Obre, Fire

Jack Shire, Fire

Casey Rosenblum, EMS

LIFE MEMBERS

Kevin Gillespie, FF-Ret.

Henry Glanternik, FF-Ret.

Liv Hempel, FF-Ret.

Chuck Jones, FF-Ret.

David Kaufman, FF/EMT-P

Elizabeth Kelly, FF-Ret.

John Merchant, FF-Ret.

Hugh O'Brien, FF-Ret.

Mario Posillico, FF-Ret.

J.R. Rieger, FF-Ret.

Carolyn Wise FF-Ret

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS OVER TIME

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ACTIVE:							
Firefighter	14	17	20	21	22	25	29
EMT	7	8	6	8	6	7	6
FF/EMT	1	1	3	4	5	6	3
TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS	22	26	29	33	33	38	38
Life	7	8	7	10	11	10	11
Probationary	11	9	10	7	9	2	3
Total SVFC	40	43	46	50	53	50	52

INCIDENT CALL VOLUME

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% YoY Change
TOTAL	73	62	104	106	105	102	-2.8%
Fire (Non-EMS)	15	19	33	33	23	30	+30.4%
EMS	58	43	71	73	82	72	-12.2%
All Incidents Within Saltaire	68	53	88	58	61	53	-13.01%
EMS Incidents Within Kismet District	0	0	0	32	27	27	0.0%
All Other Automatic/Mutual Aid Given	5	9	16	16	17	19	+11.7%

2023 INCOME & EXPENSES

BANK BALANCES AT YEAR END	
General Account	\$24,546
Reserve Account	\$88,270
2% Account for Members	\$12,382

INCOME	
State 2% On Fire Insurance Premiums	\$19,356
Annual Village Contract (2 payments in Calendar Year '23)	\$51,510
*Payment #1 for FY 2022	(\$25,500)
*Payment #2 for FY 2023	(\$26,010)
Fundraising	\$48,826
TOTAL	\$119,692\$

2023 INCOME & EXPENSES cont.

EXPENSES	
Community Events	\$10,550
Dues & Subscriptions	\$3,341
Equipment	\$71,523
Food & Beverage	\$11,326
Good & Welfare	\$4,114
Household/Kitchen Supplies	\$491
Installation Dinner (2% funds)	\$14,311
Office Expenses/Miscellaneous	\$4,757
Professional Expenses, Legal & Accounting	\$6,210
Training & Education	\$3,763
TOTAL	\$130,386

THANK YOU!

Thank you to the Mayor, Village Trustees, Village Staff and the Residents of the Village for all you do to support the SVFC. Your time, energy and resources are invaluable to the SVFC and the safety of the residents of the Village of Saltaire.

- Chief Josh Raeben
- President David Basche
- The Members of the Saltaire Volunteer Fire Company

