

RECRUIT NY:

As part of National Volunteer Week, many fire departments will open their doors for the annual Recruit NY recruitment-based open house event. They will provide materials and information regarding volunteerism to interested parties. Those interested are encouraged to contact their local fire station to see if they are participating in the recruitment drive.

Where: Your local fire department.

When: April 25 and 26.

To find your local fire department, contact your county's Emergency Management Office.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES:

Steuben Co. Office of Emergency Services
607-664-2910 ext. 2901

Seneca Co. Emergency Services Office
315-539-1756

Yates Co. Emergency Management
315-536-3000

Chemung Co. Emergency Planner
607-737-2096

Schuyler Co. Emergency Management Services
607-535-8200

(visit the website www.recruitny.org for more information.)

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION EFFORTS

The people in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes Region depend on volunteers to protect their communities. That is why I introduced legislation (*Assembly Bill A.4385/S.2780*) with Senator Tom O'Mara called the *Omnibus Emergency Services Volunteer Incentive Act*, which would provide the following programs for volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel:

- Increase the personal income tax credit an additional \$400 after four or more years of service,
- Exempt motor vehicles used in the performance of such volunteers' duties from registration fees, use taxes and special fees for volunteer license plates,
- Create a volunteer recruitment service loan forgiveness program,
- Increase availability of health insurance,
- Provide safety for employees who are late or miss work because they have responded to an emergency.

A S S E M B L Y M A N

PHIL
PALMESANO

Supporting The Southern Tier
and Finger Lakes Regions'

Emergency Responders

RECRUIT NY

"In times of Emergency, We Can Count On Their Protection"

Dear Neighbor,

April 2015

Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service workers are the protectors and backbone of our rural communities. They not only protect our neighbors but property taxpayers as well. When a disaster strikes, in an overwhelming majority of circumstances, those who respond will be volunteers who donate their time and risk their lives for their friends and neighbors.

Rising property taxes are a concern to all of us. Volunteers provide services worth more than \$5 billion annually to our local rural communities. If the services provided by our volunteers were paid, the cost to taxpayers would be exorbitant. Without dedicated volunteers, localities and taxpayers would face even more financial pressures and local property tax bills would skyrocket for residents and business owners. Therefore, not only do we owe our volunteers a debt of gratitude for keeping us safe, but we must also be thankful for the savings they provide all of us in our rural communities.

Unfortunately, many communities are facing a shortage of volunteer personnel. However, recruitment and retention efforts are underway and there are a number of benefits that are available to volunteers, including the following:

- State Income Tax Credit
- Real Property Tax Credit
- Length of Service Award Program

If you are a volunteer – thank you! It is a great privilege to represent so many dedicated individuals and families who give back so much to their community. If you are not a volunteer, please take the time to thank those who volunteer to keep your community safe and, if you are able to do so, please consider joining your local department.

I'd like to encourage you to participate in the **Annual Recruit NY** weekend by visiting your local fire department on **April 25 or 26** to learn more about volunteering. Please inform your friends or neighbors who may be interested to inquire as well.

Sincerely,



Assemblyman Phil Palmesano

CONTACT

A S S E M B L Y M A N

PHIL
PALMESANO

723 Legislative Office Bldg. • Albany, NY 12248

(518) 455-5791

105 East Steuben Street • Bath, NY 14810

(607) 776-9691



A S S E M B L Y M A N

PHIL
PALMESANO

They're just like the rest of us – normal people doing everyday jobs. But then they give so much more. Volunteer emergency responders provide a vital service to our communities. They provide protection and are there to help us in times of emergency.

Supporting The Southern Tier and Finger Lakes Regions'

Emergency Responders

"In times of Emergency, We Can Count On Their Protection"

Please Consider Joining

In many New York State municipalities, emergency services are provided by volunteers and communities are in need of assistance as volunteerism throughout the country decreases. Volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel save their communities a significant amount of money. Without new volunteers, many fire and EMS districts will be left with a lack of help. With so many areas relying on volunteers to provide emergency services, any help that you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Besides the camaraderie that you will develop with fellow volunteers and the gratifying experience you will feel helping your community, there are a number of benefits

that volunteers are eligible to receive. Once you meet the membership requirements and complete the required probation or training needs, volunteer benefits include social and organizational benefits, company and state-sponsored training, injury compensation,

and often other benefits as well.

Volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who are active for the entire tax year are eligible to receive a volunteer firefighter and ambulance worker credit or real property tax exemption.

If you'd like to pursue a rewarding career as a volunteer

firefighter or would like to find out more about how you can help, you can call 1-800-FIRELINE or contact your County Fire or EMS Coordinator (numbers in Contact Information). To learn about EMS training, go to <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/training.htm>.



"Congratulations to the South Corning Volunteer Fire Department which celebrated its 50th Anniversary at its annual awards banquet. It was a privilege for me to be a part of the celebration."

-Phil Palmesano

Did You Know?

Outside of NYC, an estimated 95% of all firefighters in New York are volunteers and the state has an estimated 97,000 volunteer firefighters.

Of the more than 1,100 ambulance services in New York, the vast majority are volunteers, and the state has about 33,000 volunteer EMS responders.

