STANDING FAST
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF O'KANE FDNY RETIRED
9/11/2001 - 25 Years Later We Shall Never Forget

Membership application is available on our website
www.okanefdnyretirees.com.

WELCOME to "Standing Fast." The official newsletter of the Gene O'Kane Division of FDNY Retired, the first and oldest FDNY retirees organization in the U.S. We have been chartered in the state of Florida since 1979.
Postal Address: FDNY Retired, 2053 Blue Beech Ct., Trinity, FL 34655



okaneclubfdny@icloud.com

email us for more info.

Who Are We?

We are an organization of retired New York City Firefighters living on the west coast of Florida in the areas of Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Pinellas, Hillsborough counties.

Although now retired, we share the bond of having had the privilege of protecting lives and property of the residents of the City of New York as members of the greatest fire department in the world, the FDNY. As retirees of the FDNY, in 1978 we banded together to form the first chapter of the FDNY RETIRED, received a charter from the state of Florida and named our organization after our founder, Gene O'Kane. Thus we are "THE GENE O'KANE DIVISION OF FDNY RETIRED." Our division is the oldest of all the divisions of FDNY Retired, one of nine divisions located in Florida and one of twenty six divisions scattered across the United States. We are also a member of the the URFA, the United Retired Firefighters Assn. We welcome all FDNY retirees, of all ranks, retired volunteer firefighters from all other municipalities, and non-firefighters to join us in friendship and brotherhood as members of our proud organization.

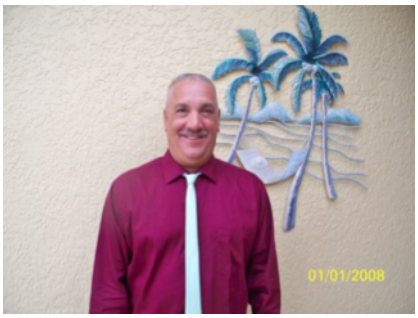
Membership and Meetings: Membership in the Gene O'Kane Division of FDNY Retired is open to all FDNY retirees of all ranks, paid and volunteer firefighters from all cities across the U.S.A., also non-firefighters are accepted as "Associate Members." Applications for membership can be obtained by completing the application located on our website and mailing it in as directed. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of June, July and August, at 7 p.m. at the America Legion "Paradise Post" located on Veterans Drive in New Port Richey, Fl 34654.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 11/17/2026. 7pm, American Legion Paradise Post, New Port Richey, FL.

2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD



KEVIN DOHERTY, PRESIDENT
727-744-5748



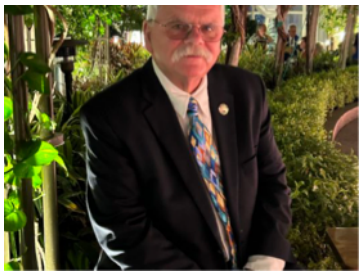
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2026

Dear Members, Family and Friends,

Can you believe it is November already? We had a great start to the fall season with our Oktoberfest-themed fall picnic. Nearly 40 members, family and friends attended and a great time was had by all. The weather could not have been better, and, as always, you cannot beat the beautiful views from our favorite Howard Park Shelter #6. Thanks to all who came out.

There a few things coming up that you'll read about later in this newsletter. Just a reminder that our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 11/17/2026. On 11/19, there will be a Toys For Tots Toy Drive at Ozona Blue in Palm Harbor. Many of our members are going to attend. We would love it if you could bring along a toy to the meeting to add to our donation that we will be making at the event. Toys should be new and unwrapped. Thank you in advance for your help.

Our Holiday Party (in place of our December meeting) will be on Tuesday, 12/15/26. You won't want to miss this. Santa will be back, along with trivia, lots of treats and yummy eats.

Please read the reminder about Boosters below. If your booster expires on 10//26, please renew so that we can include you in next month's issue. If your booster expires on 11/26, please renew before it runs out. Thank you.

Stay safe and be well.

Fraternally Yours,

Kevin Doherty, President

Note: Booster Reminder: It's never too late to start being a Club Booster. ***Boosters are open to anyone, including your spouses, family and friends*** - so take a look at the Booster pages coming up in this newsletter and think about showing your support. Every Booster runs for 1 year and we greatly appreciate each one.

*OKANE BOOSTERS: reminder…if there is a * next to your name, it's time to renew! Boosters run for 12 months. The number following your name indicates when your booster will expire.*
Thank you for your support. Anyone can be a booster. Family members, friends, etc.

Byrnes, Brian 1/27 Lt. Gene Sullivan, E39
Byrnes, Brian 1/27 Firefighter James Byrnes 1824. Batt 21
Byrnes, Brian 1/27 BC Carlo Andersen 456. Safety Batt
Byrnes, Brian 1/27 Firefighter Marty Celic Murdered 7/2/77 13108. T.L.18
Chichester, Dan 10/27 Members of E275 1963-1987
Chichester, Dan 10/27 Members of L126 1963-1987
Chichester, Dan 10/27 Members of E234 1963-1987
*Dunscomb Jim 11/26 Honoring all members of E82
Dunscomb, Jim 1/27 Always in our hearts, E82
D'Andrea, Jack 10/26Members of Ladder 126
*Incarnato, Charles 10/26 Rockapulco - E268, L137 - Best on the Beach
*Incarnato, Charles 10/26 On The Edge - E314 Members LOL
*Incarnato, Charles 10/26 Never A Dull Moment E72, For Sure
*Incarnato, Charles 10 /26Mid-town High Rise E8,L2, Batt8
*Incarnato, Charles 10/26 The Bronx, must I say more? Great Memories
*Incarnato, Charles 10/26 In memory of John Askin, E48, my friend and brother
Kikis, Louis 1/27 E22/ L13 "The Yorkville Nine"
Kikis, Louis 1/27 343 Never Forget
Kikis, Victoria 7/27Honoring the memory or those who gave their all. 343 Never forget.
Kikis, Victoria 7/27 RIP John Braunagel Jr.
McCarren, Charles 1/27 BC Richard De Prima. Batt 49
McCarren, Charles 1/27Lt. James McCarren E48
McCarren, Charles 1/27 Lt. Charles McCarren III FDNY Safety Command
McCarren, Charles 1/27 Lt. Daniel McCarren E298
*McCarthy, William 11/26 Members of L25, 9/11 Never Forget
Martinsen, Ron 1/27 Mem BC Tom Neary L134
Martinsen, Ron 1/27 Mem BC Chris Scalone E332
Miccio, Rich 6/27 Tom Gambino L163 - 9/11/01 - RIP
Miccio, Rich 6/27 L163/E325 - Woodside Warriors*Nilsson Mike1 L 126
Nilsson, Mike 1/27 Remembering members of E303, L126
Nilsson, Mike 1/27 September 11, 2001. 343 - Never Forget
Powers, Jim 1/27 Honoring members of E35
Ragusso, Rob 11/27 Honoring all members of E289
Ribbe, Donald. 10/27 Always remember September 11th - 343
Ribbe, Donald 10/27 Honoring our fallen brothers, always in our memories

Boosters continue on next page……

BOOSTERS CONTINUED……..
Savarese Jim 11/27 The Tin House Gang E-232/L176 BMA
Savarese Jim 11/27 Watkins St. E-231/L-120/44BN
Savarese Jim 11/27 Briggs Ave E79/L37/27BN
Savarese Jim 11/27 RIP Ron Quartuccio
Segreto, Vincent 1/27 DC T. Campbell
Segreto, Vincent 1/27 All the members of FDNY who died on 9/11
Segreto, Vincent 1/27 All the members of FDNY who have died since 9/11
Segreto, Vincent 1/27 In honor of all FDNY members
Tarantino Ron 1/27 In Memory of Louis Tarantino

BY SENDING IN YOUR BOOSTER!
YOUR MESSAGE COULD BE HERE. SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Becoming a Booster is simple. Just enter the name of your honoree and the message as you want it to appear. Each message is $5.00 and runs for 1 year.

Example:

Your name and address
Your booster message:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Send your Booster. ($5.00 per message) to:
Mike Doyle, Financial Secretary
5157 Silent Loop. Condo #314
New Port Richey, FL 34652

You may also find booster applications on our website:
www.okanefdnyretirees.com.

Boosters run for 12 months. The number following your name indicates when your Booster will expire. Thank you for your support. **Anyone can be a booster. Family members, friends, etc.**

O'Kane Fall Picnic…Oktoberfest Fun in the Florida Sun

On Saturday, 10/24/26, we held our annual fall picnic at Fred Howard Park in Tarpon Springs. The Oktoberfest-themed event was a big hit. Thanks to the early birds, Louis Kikis and Rich Miccio who came out to set up the with the help of spouses Victoria and Kathy, plus Louis's son-in-law. Jerry Siebens. Together they had everything pretty much set by the time our happy picnickers arrived.

We had a wonderful meal with franks, brats, and burgers plus delicious charcoal grilled pork loins with all the trimmings. Topping everything off was the incredible dessert table filled with just about every treat you could want.

Special thanks to the guys manning the grills: Stephen McNally, Louis Kikis, Rich Miccio and Kevin Doherty, and to Kathy Miccio, Jeannie Doherty and Carol Corby for set up and serving.

Adding to the picnic fun was a live auction (thank you to the Chichester's for their generous donation of Elizabeth's hand crafted holiday wreaths). and Bingo games led by Caller, Victoria Kikis and her daughter, Antoinette Siebens. Between the auction bidding and the Bingo there was some fun competition going on. Thanks to all who took part. The money we raise here helps us keep these fun events going.

All in All, A Great Time Was Had And We Look Forward To The Next Time.



(Left) President Kevin Doherty leads the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a short prayer of remembrance for our fallen brothers.



(Right) Grill Masters Stephen McNally and Rich Miccio solving the problems of the world while keeping everything "well done."

MORE PICNIC PICS ON NEXT PAGE……

MORE PICNIC FUN



From Top to bottom: Table ready, set, go. Louis mans grill while the guys supervise, fine dining, Hydrating, Bingo buddies, Holiday wreath and **center:** McNally takes charge.















Hay! What's Happening here? NYC approves phase-out of horse-drawn carriages.

On October 22, 2026, the New York City council voted 40-7 to approve Romanach's Law which would phase out horse-drawn carriage operations by June 1, 2028, bringing to an end the nearly 170 years old industry. The TWU (union representing the carriage drivers and owners) are threatening a lawsuit over property rights, lost livelihoods, and restrictions on what happens to the horses.

Romanach's Law includes protections intended to prevent carriage horses from being sold for slaughter. The TWU objects to provisions raising restricting sales to buyers who intend to use the animals for carriage work even outside New York City. They argue that such restrictions interfere with owners' ability to sell their horses for otherwise legal operations including historical attractions and working carriage businesses elsewhere in the country.

Under the bill, the city must develop a transition plan by April 2027, but financial compensation and replacement employment are not guaranteed. The industry supports roughly 200 drivers, owners, and stablehands, according to the New York Times, with approximately 180 carriage horses affected by the planned shutdown. The key legal argument opposing the bill is that it takes away the owners' property, for example, the carriage medallion, without adequate compensation.

There are currently 68 holders of medallions. Drivers had to pay as much as $400,000 for each one. The 68 medallions are worth about 25 million. The drivers say that there is nothing that guarantees they will be made whole for their medallions, horses, and carriages.

TWU International President John Samuelsen states, "This bill is a train wreck of constitutional and due process violations. It offers nothing concrete for blue collar drivers and carriage owners who will be financially crushed, stripped of their jobs, their licenses, expensive city issued medallions, small businesses and way of life. It is not progressive, it is anti-worker. it's theft."

NYC Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani states, "Our administration will make sure workers and owners are. protected and the horses are safe."

The next stage of the horse carriage debate will play out in court. *Hold your horses, it's not over y*et.

LITHIUM BATTERY FATAL FIRE IN THE BRONX



FDNY warns residents about lithium-ion batteries after 10-year-old dies from

Early on the morning of October 28, 2026, a Lithium battery fire raged through an apartment in the Paterson Houses in the Bronx. The fire was sparked by the battery from an electric bike which had been placed near or in the kitchen/front door. The position of the device blocked the family's primary escape route.

First responders arrived in less than 4 minutes and pulled the 5 occupants from the apartment, deploying 38 units and 120 fire and EMS personnel , who forced the door open and rescued occupants amid heavy flames and smoke. 2 firefighters sustained non-life-threatening injuries during the response.

The apartment was occupied by 5 people. 11 year old Zion Maine died at the scene and 4 others(his brothers and parents)were rushed to nearby hospitals. On October 30, 3 other victims succumbed. At this time there is one survivor, a 37 year old man who remains in critical condition.

City officials including FDNY Commissioner Lillian Bonsignore, noted that this incident marked the 401st lithium-batters fire in New York City in 2026, of which are included 74 injuries and 6 deaths; driving home warnings against charging mobility devices indoors, near exits, and while sleeping.





STAY SMART THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
Fire Safety Tips



The holiday season is a prime time for fires to occur. Here are some tips to follow to make sure you and your loved ones celebrate

Do: Use battery operated candles when possible. They can look, smell, and feel like real candles without the danger of fire.

Do: Use UL certified products. Products certified by Underwriters Laboratories have been evaluated for safety and meet national standards.

Do: Keep combustibles 4 feet away from heat sources.

Do: Choose decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant.

Do: Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.

Do: Replace string lights have worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.

Do: Be mindful of pinched wires. Things like electrocution, faulty operation, fire hazards, and more dangers can happen when cables become pinched and exposed. Be sure to check that wires aren't caught under chairs or in a window sill.

Don't: Leave burning candles unattended. Candle fires can peak on Christmas Eve, New Years and Christmas Day.

Don't: Overload electrical outlets. Two thirds of all electrical fires begin in plugs or appliances. Most electrical fires can be prevented.

Upcoming events



TOYS FOR TOTS AT OZONA BLUE

It's the holiday season. Get started by doing some good. Come out for the the 3rd Annual Toys for Tots Rock for Tots event.

Thursday, November 19, 2026, from 5 - 9 pm.

Bring an unwrapped toy (valued at $20.00, or make a donation at the door .

Cat Valentine, our very own favorite will be performing around 6:40pm.

Ozona Blue is an unique waterfront restaurant in Palm Harbor which includes it's very own swimming pool and outdoor lounge area. The food is fantastic and the sunsets are incredible.

We hope to see you there.

Holiday Party Coming Up



Mark your calendars. It's the most wondergful time of the year!

O'Kane Annual Holiday Party
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2026
Time: 5pm
Cost: $10.00 per person
Bring your family and friends!

As always we will have our Holiday Buffet Meal plus Team Trivia Contest and lots of great raffle prizes.

Santa is guaranteed to stop by too.

You may pay at the November meeting (11/17) or mail. your reservation and check to:
Louis Kikis, Treasurer
4973 W Breeze Cir
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Make your check payable to:
O'Kane FDNY Retired

Payments need to be received by 12/11/26

See You There!



Sending our very best to all.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Some Holiday Humor…..

What do you call a running turkey? Fast Food

Why didn't the turkey want dessert? He was stuffed!

What kind of music do Pilgrims play? Plymouth Rock

Why was the turkey arrested? Because the police suspected FOWL play!