

VETERANS & SENIORS COMMITTEE

of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Veterans & Seniors Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on September 1, 2011.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Steven H. Stern, Chairman
Leg. Sarah Anker, Vice Chair
Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher
Leg. Edward P. Romaine
Leg. Lou D'Amaro

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel
Tim Laube, Clerk
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office
Laura Halloran, BRO
Eric A. Kopp, County Executive's Office
Ed Hennessy, Aide to County Executive
Tom Ronayne, Director/Veterans Service Agency
Holly Rhodes-Teague, Director/Office for the Aging
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern
Richard Meyer, AME Legislative Representative
Jack Caffey, Aide to Presiding Officer
Tom Ryan, Aide to Leg. Vilorio-Fisher
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
Bryan Galgano, Aide to Leg. Stern
Kathleen Johannsen, Atria Senior Living
Glen Rappaport, Birchwood Assisted Living
Major A.E. McLaughlin, Jr./Civil Air Patrol
Ali Nazir, Aide to Leg. Kennedy
Louis Brida, American Legion
Val Ledovsky, photographer/Zimmerman Edelson
And all other interested parties

VERBATIM MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:41 AM

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Good morning everyone. Thank you for joining us. Welcome to the Committee on Veterans and Seniors. I ask everybody to please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator D'Amaro.

SALUTATION

I ask everybody to please remain standing and join us in a moment of silence as we keep all of our brave men and women fighting overseas in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

PUBLIC PORTION

Thank you everybody for being with us today. We have several items on the agenda today. What we'll do first, I do have a card as part of public portion. So we'll begin with our public portion. Mr. Louis Brida. Sir, please come on up. And in order to make the microphone work, you just need to push down the button.

MR. BRIDA:

Yeah, hold it down while I'm speaking. Hi. My name is Lou Brida. I am the historian for the American Legion in Lake Ronkonkoma, also for the Amvets in Lake Ronkonkoma; also a member of DAV, the past Commander of the American Legion and a Chaplain for the American Legion.

I just wanted to ask for a little assistance for the future; not today, but we might need some in the future. There's three events coming up. September 4th we have our Hawkins Avenue Block Party. We'll be at the historical area. On September 24th we have the Fall Festival at the Brookhaven Beach, the Michael Murphy Park. And on October 22nd, we have a giant flea market at Post 155 on 115 Church Street, Ronkonkoma. It's also Post 48 for AmVets is also there at that place.

In all these places, we're going to be circulating petitions. And this petition is going to request tickets for an event that's going to happen in June. And we hope to sell out in advance this event. And that's where I might need your help. The event is a play -- a Broadway show Rogers and Hammerstein's South Pacific. We'd like that to be at Michael Murphy Park. We have auditions coming up on the 9th of September. And I think it's going to be a fantastic affair. I have to get permission, of course, from Brookhaven Town to do that, which I already tried to do. But they were all out the day I went over there. Tim Mazzei wasn't there and neither was Mark Lesko or Kathy Walsh. So I'll have to go back again.

What we need is a Bali Hai. And guess what's right across the street from Michael Murphy Park? Right across the Lake, excuse me, from Michael Murphy? Is a Suffolk County park. The Suffolk County Park on Smithtown Boulevard has a beautiful new playground in it, which doesn't look like Bali Hai but it -- also on the other end is an eyesore called the Bavarian Inn, which doesn't look like Bali Hai either. But in between there's an area that's sometimes is an island and sometimes is not. Today it's not an island because the Lake receded. And it's a beautiful stretch of trees. And there's an old paved road on it. And that could be our Bali Hai right in between the modern playground and the rundown Bavarian Inn.

So what we need to do is get in the future help from Suffolk County to rig up some maybe green lights or something. So in the distance when we're doing South Pacific, it looks like there's an island over there. Okay? In fact, if you call in the Army Corps of Engineers, in the long run that might be the best solution to that water problem, is to have an island over there and build a moat around it.

So this way when the Lake overflows, it has some place to go that's permanent and not just covering up that road. When the sand bars are there, basically it's tip-toe-through-the-duck-dung type thing.

All right, I said enough. So in the future I'll get back to you's and hopefully we'll have some -- I have some fliers here. I also have my badge on the ground.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Thank you. Thanks so much for being with us today.

MR. BRIDA:

By the way, I'm sorry Vivian Vilorio-Fisher wasn't here because she knows me pretty well.

PRESENTATIONS

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Okay. We do have presentations today. Many people that are with us today that we do want to hear from. First, Holly?

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

Good morning everybody. I just -- I know you have legislation in front of you for the Chronic Disease Self Management Program. We ran it this past year with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. It's a six-week program run with volunteers. They work with people who have chronic diseases. It could be anything from depression onto arthritis to high blood pressure. And they teach them ways to, I guess, manage their chronic disease. And it's been highly successful. We've exceeded the numbers we were supposed to do with the state. And we have funding for another year. It came out of ARRA fund. So I would just like to ask for your support for that program again. It's 100% funded and it is done primarily with volunteers throughout the County and throughout Nassau County as well through the RSVP Program in Suffolk.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Holly, thank you. Before you step down, I just wanted to get, I guess, a general overview of what you thought about hurricane preparedness, hurricane response efforts, particularly as it relates to your Department.

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

We started preparations last week before the storm. We contacted all the clients in the Case Management Program. There's approximately 800 clients that we called, to see if they knew there was a storm coming, if they had somebody who would support them in place, if they had supplies, things like that. We did not have any major issues come out of those phone calls. We also contacted each of our Nutrition Programs to ask what they had in place. And they were all providing extra meals on Friday for the following Monday. And then on Monday they would assess what they could do.

We have had very little issue in terms of the Nutrition Program. But a few with people without electric. And each of the programs are trying to do things as best they can for those who don't have electric at this point. You know, frozen meals obviously don't work in that case so we're trying to get them to do cold meals if they have them. But mostly people get hot meals anyway so they're getting the one meal. And we've had reports of a couple of our clients after the storm with trees down and things like and we're trying to assist them as we can.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Do you have any idea offhand approximately how many calls you needed to make; that were made?

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

After the fact?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Before.

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

Oh, before. We have approximately 800 clients on the EISEP Program so we called all of them. Those --

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Is that done by staff or is that a robo-call?

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

It was done by a staff. They call just to make sure that they know -- it's done by the caseworker. And if a caseworker was on vacation then other staff picked up those calls. And then the Nutrition sites, we also asked them to call all the nutrition people on their list for the home delivery. And the congregate people and the home-delivered all got, you know, safety tips given to them, either at the site or put out with their meals.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Holly, would you know that of those 800 that we assist in that way, do any of those 800 show up on any other list, any other type of priority assistance list with Suffolk County or priority list with LIPA or any of the other utilities?

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

I'm sure they do. I'm sure there are other people that, you know, some of them are on the JEEP list; not a lot of them but some are on the JEEP. So they probably get calls from there. If they felt that they needed to be evacuated, they could call. Yeah, I would think that some of them are. They probably have oxygen and things likes that. And I do know that some of them said, "oh, yeah, we've heard from this program, this program, this program." So they are getting multiple calls.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Okay. So we think that they are, we hope that they are but we don't coordinate that effort. They should be on other lists, but we don't necessarily know.

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

You know, there are case management clients so I wouldn't feel comfortable thinking that somebody else should call them for us. And I would think other programs would probably feel the same about their programs. So, no, we don't coordinate the calls. Nutrition, we do. We don't call the nutrition people. We ask the Nutrition contractors to call their nutrition people.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Okay. But at the very least we believe that those people that receive the services and may also need to be in need of JEEP program services, that at least that heads-up is being given; and that's done by us.

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

Yes, yes. And we also have -- there are a few other clients that we have that may not be case management clients, but we've worked with them over the years that we know are frail. We call those people. It's probably another 150 people on that list as well.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:

Hi, Holly. Thank you for coming in, filling us in on what's happening. My area was hit really hard. We still have thousands of people without electric. And I also have the largest senior communities in my area. And fortunately most of the senior communities were not affected as much as the north shore.

My question to you is two things: Resources. Again, I'm new in this position as a Legislator. And I know the coordination, we're hoping to tighten up the coordination because it seems like there's some weak links within the coordination, the Town, LIPA, you know, the whole situation. Is there anything that you can give us, information relating to your services and resources when a senior calls? What would be the response that you could give -- what is some information you can give us as Legislators to help facilitate things?

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

We're a Jack-Of-All-Trades. We get phone calls every day all day from seniors on a variety of issues that they may have. So whatever call comes in, we try to assist getting them to whatever service they're looking for. So it's not that we have services in our back pocket but we know the referrals to make and where to look for things. So I would say that if you have somebody who's got issues going on now, they can call the office and let us know and we'll try to help them in any way we can.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay. Now I toured -- I visited the emergency services of Suffolk County's unit over in Yaphank yesterday. And I was given a quick little tour. And they have all their stations set up for all the different response teams. My concern with seniors, again, is the medical issues. And I was referred to -- refer them to Red Cross. Is that what you're also doing?

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

I was at the EOC over the course of the storm on and off. We don't do medical services, our office. So a lot of the calls that I heard coming in that had to do with somebody with oxygen and things that were going to the Department of Health because they have more of the resources or the locations where people can get assistance with that.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay. Then the other question I had -- I recently met with Leisure Village, the Board, prior to the hurricane, prior to what we're going through now -- and they were interested in having a presentation provided to give them more information about emergency situation -- the emergency -- preparing for an emergency. Do you have that available to go to their group and provide that presentation?

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

We have information on that kind of stuff, but I would say that Red Cross would be the primary on that. And if they're not available, then they could call our office. And we have the same brochures and things that the Red Cross gives out. But we have not done presentations on that before, but we probably could do that if somebody asks.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay. So that would -- so who would I call? Would I call your office or do I -- would I call Joe Williams, the Emergency Department?

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

Joe Williams or John Miller at the American Red Cross. And if -- like I said, again, if they can't, we

have information. We could certainly put a presentation together if we needed to.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay. And last question. Again, going back to resources, is there any -- what are the tangibles, the physical resources available for seniors during emergencies? Flashlights, water, anything the County can provide?

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

We are not an emergency service in our office. So we work to try to put people together with the resources that are out there. But in terms of having flashlights, things like that, that's something that we tell people they need, but it's not something that we have to provide.

LEG. ANKER:

All right. Thank you.

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

Anybody else?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Holly, thank you. We have with us today, I'm going to invite them up to join us, Kathleen Johannsen, the Regional Vice President of the Atria Senior Living and Glen Rappaport, Administrator, Birchwood Assistant Living facility in East Northport, who have been -- I'm going to have you come and join us over at the table -- who were kind enough to come and join us to talk about how things are going at their respective facilities, what they did to prepare; and how they find the aftermath for their facilities as well as their impressions for what's going on, particularly when it comes to our most vulnerable here on Long Island. So, welcome to the both of you and thanks so much for being with us.

MS. JOHANNSEN:

Thank you very much for inviting us and giving us the opportunity to share our experiences during Hurricane Irene. I have four properties here in Suffolk County as well as seven in Nassau County and two in Queens. Fortunately out of the 13 communities, 14 buildings, we only had to evacuate one building and that was our Bay Shore community.

The residents in our Bay Shore community, which total about 85 residents, were relocated to three of our local communities: One in Huntington, one in East Northport and one in South Setauket. And due to a very, very well planned and well thought-out system that Atria has in place, it was a very positive, very smooth experience. Because Atria is a nationwide company with 130 properties approximately across the US, we were looking at over 50 properties in jeopardy because of the path of Hurricane Irene. And so the effort to prepare for the hurricane was not just here on Long Island for us.

There were three very specific areas that were in grave danger due to the path of the hurricane. And that was Virginia Beach, Long Island and upper Massachusetts. So fortunately hurricane preparedness is something that we do routinely. It's a program that we have in place. Part of our daily -- part of our plan in each property is to be prepared for any emergency that might necessitate an evacuation or a defend in place situation. We -- as part of our licensure, we do an evacuation drill once a year at every property. And we do monthly drills, emergency drills or slash fire drills because that's the more likely event.

We also have in each building an emergency generator. We have at least a three-day supply of all necessities for the residents. So food, water, medicine, any other sundries, things like that, are all in place. One of the things that we implemented about three years ago following Hurricane Katrina

was that every single property has what we call the hurricane box. And it's really not just one box; it's a couple of boxes.

Sorry, can you hear me? Okay. In that box are enough flashlights for every single resident and staff. We have very lightweight, almost like the blankets that you get when you're in an airline, those little blankets. There's some extra protective covering that's already wrapped, ready to go and individually packaged. Tons of batteries, extra water, hand-held radio. The kind -- usually we have cranks and we also have land line phones because most of us use electronic phones now. And there's a whole host of other items that are in there. But they're there, they're ready to go and we do check them periodically.

Atria has a quality assurance program. We call it Quality Enhancement. And part of that -- every property is given an inspection twice a year. And part of the inspection is our disaster preparedness. So it's very much part of our culture to make sure that our residents are ready for any type of emergency that we can foresee.

In addition to that, we have formed a task force. We call it the -- we actually call it the Hurricane Task Force. And that task force is a group of about 40 volunteers from all different properties across the country who have previous experience with evacuation situations. So, for example, following Hurricane Katrina, we had a lot of very experienced people in the south who knew exactly what to do in case of a hurricane and had lived through probably some of the worst case scenarios possible.

So what we did was we developed this list of volunteers. And that list of volunteers will literally within an hour's notice drop everything. They keep a bag packed wherever they go. And within an hour's notice they will be on a plane or in a car heading towards the disaster site. And that's exactly what we implemented in this particular case. So here on Long Island because we have such a dense population of our own properties, we were able to use staff from other buildings here. But we also had this team that came in and assisted us during the evacuation.

Fortunately with a hurricane, you have a lot of time to prepare. And we did just that. We spent the two days prior to the actual hurricane making a list of every -- every resident, making sure we had extra medicine for them, packing a bag for every resident with everything that they may need including their, you know, their favorite pillow and their favorite blanket and whatever necessities they felt would help them be more comfortable in whatever environment we wound up in.

Our hope is always to defend in place and that is why we have the generators and we have the staff. But in the case of our Bay Shore building, it was a mandatory evacuation. And we did it calmly, coolly, with great -- I mean every detail was taken care of down to the point where there were actually drinks and snacks and a vehicle that followed every one of the busses to make sure that if there were an emergency or a resident had a problem during the transfer, there was another vehicle there ready and waiting to take them off the bus. And, if necessary, escort them to the hospital or whatever might be needed.

When the emergency evacuation was announced, we also had an evacuation announced in one of our Nassau buildings. But we were far enough away from the water that I was able to work with the Office of Emergency Management. And we made the decision that it was much safer to keep the residents where they were because it was on Sunrise Highway, which was five miles from the water. So in that case it made more sense to defend in place. With the Bay Shore building, it is on the canal so it made more sense to remove the residents, board up the building and bring them elsewhere.

Just trying to making sure -- I think that pretty much tells the story -- oh, once the residents were relocated, they were absorbed into the communities where they were taken to. We had made provisions ahead of time obviously at the other communities for -- we ordered extra food, we had

extra bedding, we had extra staff on and we absorbed both the Bay Shore staff and the extra staff from each community into the community. So the residents for the most part had a normal routine at the new community. And that's a very, very important part of what we do and why we do it because our residents are frail. They don't like change. They don't do well in a situation that's either emotionally or physically upsetting to them. And one of our goals is to keep things as normal as possible. And we certainly were able thank goodness to succeed in that.

In addition we also had a block of hotel rooms available in case we were not able to relocate our residents to the other buildings within Long Island. Because we really weren't sure following the path of the hurricane if we might have to evacuate another building as well. So that's something that I would suggest that be recommended since you have another enough time ahead of time in a hurricane is to try to get a block of hotel rooms far enough away from the path of the hurricane that we can remove the residents. But it's something that we really do not want to do without very, very careful thought about that. Because our residents, some are oxygen-dependent; some are medication-dependent. Just the fact that elderly people being on a bus, you know, toileting issues become a part of the situation as well. So that's kind of what we did.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Thank you. Mr. Rapaport. I'll open it up for questions from anybody.

MR. RAPPAPORT:

Is that good? Okay. Good afternoon. Thanks for inviting us to come down and speak today. I think it's a wonderful forum to be able to talk and come up with some suggestions for future hurricanes or natural disasters that might hit the Island. I'm from Birchwood Suites Assisted Living, which is a much smaller community. We're 87 beds, but we're not a corporation with other facilities for us to pull or relocate our residents to.

The Department of Health requires all healthcare facilities to have evacuation plans in place for these types of events. However, they're relocation agreements to facilities that normally in Suffolk County -- you hope you're not hit in Nassau County or you'd be transferring your residents from one county to the other. So in this case our relocation agreement to Nassau County really wasn't feasible for us when our power did go out. We were not one of the facilities that were mandated to move because we were in East Northport and not near any water.

Our power went out about 4:30 in the morning on Sunday morning. We do have generators. They're not built-in generators like some other facilities have. They're 300-pound generators that you can move around the building based on need and necessity. About an hour in after that, one of our generators was thrown into a building leaving us with one. About an hour later, the alternator on that machine failed and we had about an hour-and-a-half of no power at all. Just phone. The phones were working up until about nine, which was very helpful. We were able to contact Choice Ambulette, who was able to bring us a third generator, which we utilized to keep the kitchen going until we could relocate.

Our original relocation agreements that we have, they were out of power as well. So I think it bode very well. We did have a third place in mind and we did make contact with them. We did relocate our residents to the refuge which is a church on Elwood Road. It's actually the previous owners of our building before we took over. And it was not the best location or the place I would have wanted to bring our residents to at that point because the setup wasn't the best, the steps with no -- no elevators. We took all of the mattresses from our building. They slept on the floor. Some up in the church part; some downstairs. We had four toilets for 87 people, which the septic tank overflowed at that point. We had to get emergency personnel there to fix that problem. So it really wasn't the best location.

We were -- I was on the phone with the Department of Health, which I have to commend them for

doing a wonderful job. John Pinto and Bill Conrad, they were working from eight to eight, you know, around the clock. And then we relocated after that to John J. Foley out in Yaphank. So we basically had two transfers, 80 hours straight. A lot of our workers were rotated, who slept because people weren't able to get in. It was quite an event.

Luckily -- well, I wouldn't say luckily. I had a little more experience with evacuation due to a gas leak that we had in our building two years ago. So we had to evacuate the building in the past and we had used our resources; kind of helpful in this situation. But when Brian called me yesterday and asked us how we were, I went over it with him. I explained to him about the Department of Health's obligation. And we're obligated to have relocation agreements. And how our agreements really weren't able to be fulfilled in most matters because we couldn't move to Nassau because the storm was obviously worse on that side in that County. Our other place didn't have power, which you don't really count on them not having power either.

Our generators failed. You know, everything that could possibly go wrong went wrong. But at the end everything went as smooth as you could possibly ask for under the circumstances. So the residents, you know, you never know -- if you have it then you don't have it, and you're sleeping on a floor in a church, and they look at you and they say, "yeah, I want to go home." And you say, "well, I want you to go home, too, because I want to go home."

And, you know, I think in the future if -- the Governor had moved people, you know, pre-storm, a lot of the facilities that even if you had contracts with, you probably wouldn't be able to use those facilities anyway. I think from talking with the Department of Health for hours, is that it probably would be best if we see a storm like this coming to have maybe large generators set up in schools that are aren't being utilized if it's a summer month, where they have showering facilities and bathrooms that are meant to hold that type of capacity. I think we'll go back and we'll relook at our evacuation -- not the plan to evacuate, but where we house. Because from being in the situation we've learned that our relocation agreements probably in some cases won't work. And even if we did get to our nursing home capacities, we'd probably be like we were at John J. Foley, which was on the floor in a dining room area on mattresses which, you know, it did the job and everyone was safe and that's the most important thing when you go through a tragedy like this. But, you know, I guess sometimes you don't know when something's going to come.

Yeah, this was something that we could plan for, but you're not always going to be able to plan. I mean we had an earthquake the other day. Who would have thought, you know. So, I think that kind of stuff. And drills, you know, more drills to get ready for these types of things because the smaller communities like ours that don't have the corporate backing that Atria does or Sunrise does, we're the little guys. And we're family owned and operated. And, you know, you really can't always get those owners on the phone. And you're kind of left with the resources that you have in your building. And you have to make due.

So I thought that everyone did a wonderful job with the Department of Health. And I just have to, you know, say that I was very proud of what they did and they should be commended. And I look forward to working with you guys any way I can to help improve any further planning that you guys put together for us.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Thank you. And thank you for -- both of you for being with us today. I did want to -- before we open it up to questions, I did just want to make a note for the record Constance {Fleming} of Sunrise Manor was to join us today to talk about that facility's experience. We found out just a couple of minutes before today's hearing that she would not be able to join us; that she needs to be on site to supervise the evacuation of that facility, which so many days later still doesn't have power restored. And so that's something that we'll certainly want to follow up on with her and with LIPA and our other officials. But it's good to see good news, some good stories from this episode as well.

So first of all, let me ask the both of you, how's everybody doing?

MR. RAPPAPORT:

Everyone's back at Birchwood, which was great. It came back on 8 o'clock Tuesday. So everyone's back and happy to be back, which is good. And, so, they're okay.

MS. JOHANNSEN:

We were able to have a great grand homecoming party. We -- the regionals and extra staff spent the day that the residents were returning and the day before that while we were making the plans and getting approvals to return, just looking at every bit of the building and doing extra special cleaning and restoring the small amount of damage that had occurred during the hurricane. And the residents were returned home with name tags on saying "I was hugged in Huntington." And we had a huge homecoming party for them, very special dinner, entertainment. And we called it *Good Night, Irene* and had a very nice homecoming.

And one of the best things that we implemented, I had -- in my prior role I had developed an e-mail list of about 95 percent of the families. And during Hurricane Irene in the initial stages, we were able to communicate very quickly, very expeditiously with our families through e-mail almost on a, you know, couple of -- every couple of hours basis. Because so many people lost internet, we then went to a hotline and put a message -- a recorded message on the phone that was updated several times a day. Because you're so busy just trying to take care of the residents and making sure that every one of their needs is met, sometimes we forget about the families that are home and worried and just want to be reassured that everything's great.

And in the case of many of our Bay Shore residents, they -- the family themselves were evacuated. So they wound up coming to where the residents were so that they could at least have electricity and hot food. And they didn't stay over, but they certainly did take advantage and we welcomed them to do that because we wanted to make sure that everyone was well taken care of.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Of course, you both represent very different organizations, family-owned and operated facility, a national organization. So I'm sure your approach to preparation can be different.

My question to the both of you is, is there some type of industry standard that you're aware of that you seek to emulate? Is there any kind of national certification or state -- I understand that New York State requires you to file a plan. But kind of the meat on the bones, of any type of a plan, are you aware of any kind of national organization or state organization, trade organization that you might both be a part of that sets a standard for the facilities to follow?

MR. RAPPAPORT:

We're members -- I mean you guys are also members of ESAAL, the Empire State Association of Assisted Living. And they hold conferences yearly. They do have talks at those facilities about evacuation plans. Again, you have these implemented programs that you're required to submit to the Department of Health. However, in this magnitude of a storm where your relocation agreements aren't upheld because they can't uphold them, you're really left in a bind. Luckily Atria has, you know, so many communities that they can relocate their residents to and they can split them up in pieces based on availability and make them as comfortable as possible. But the smaller, privately owned facilities like our facility, there are many that have one or two in a chain, really don't have those resources at our hands to utilize.

So we're kind of, like I said, stuck in those situations where, you know, you can't really look to your agreements, you're really stuck. And we really didn't think that the power would be out as long as it was. But you never know in a storm how long they're going to be out. You don't know if your relocation agreements are going to be able to be upheld because of the storm because you don't

know what they're going to be hit with.

Luckily, like I said, we were able to utilize our last resort kind of thing because they had power. But had the power of the church gone out, I don't know where or -- we would have really probably struggled with the Department of Health on where to go. Because once they knew we were relocating to that church, there was nowhere else at that point for us to go even if we wanted to. The Department of Health, we couldn't get into another facility that had, you know, power. There was no room. We had to wait a day later until another facility could get back to their community before we could get into the John J. Foley Center.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Offhand, and I suppose we can get more information on that, but do you have any idea -- does anybody have any idea how many facilities Foley facility had hosted? You speak of at least one that was in before you. Any idea when were over there, did they say how many other facilities they had hosted for some period of time?

MR. RAPPAPORT:

No, they didn't tell me how many -- I know they did host others. John Pinto or Bill Conrad from Department of Health in Suffolk County should be able to tell you that. But I know there were a lot of facilities that were relocated to different facilities.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Under the County's Emergency Management Plan, John J. Foley is designated as the emergency evacuation center for all those with special needs. So all special needs patients had an opportunity to be received there. I know they did receive a nursing home prior to yours. I know that when you went there, not only were you put on the fifth tower in their dining room, but some of your patients actually received beds and rooms.

MR. RAPPAPORT:

Correct.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So not all of them were housed on the floor there. So I am aware that John J. Foley Nursing Home played a key role in being a backup for not only your nursing home, for other nursing homes and for anyone with special needs; something that unfortunately the County hasn't got the credit for for providing those services for emergency management. This was a storm. And when I heard you tell your story, I'm thinking, boy sounds like Murphy's Law at work. Anything that could go wrong, went wrong. But you know what? In an emergency, those things happen all the time. And fortunately you had backup plans. But when the septic tank overflowed at the church, your only alternative, and let's make this clear, the Health Department you're speaking about is New York State, not the county --

MR. RAPPAPORT:

Right.

LEG. ROMAINE:

The County Health Department reached out and they made Foley available. And all I would say is thank God we have a facility like that; because if that facility was privatized, that would be, you know, that would be -- we'd have to work out other arrangements as the County. And I would hope that our County has worked -- our County Health Department, Emergency Management has worked with other private nursing homes to make sure that all of our nursing homes and assisted living have backup facilities in cases it's knocked out. Now this was not a serious storm contrary to what a lot of people think. Thank God it became a tropical storm, but it could have been far worse.

If it was a category -- a serious category one, category two, we would have had serious problems. And those problems would have been reflective on the vulnerable populations, particularly elderly, assisted living, nursing homes, if they were without power for any length of time. And that's something we should seriously as a committee consider, what we're going to do if we're confronted with that. And we will be one day. And one thing I don't want to see is Suffolk County become New Orleans. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Thank you, Legislator Romaine. And I think that's what makes today's conversation so important; that there is certainly a need that is recognized. And to use this as an opportunity to discover what went right, what went wrong and how we need to be proactive on this very issue going forward in the future. Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:

From what I remember, I spoke to Legislator Browning -- Kate Browning yesterday. I think she said there were about 45 -- does that sound about right -- 45 people at the John J. Foley Center. But how many do you have in your group? Eighty-five. So I'm wondering --

MR. RAPPAPORT:

You know, we had about 60 residents go over to John J. Some of the family members who had power picked up their family members. Some of them were in the hospital where, you know, they were on oxygen. We wanted to make sure they had the power and the resources that they needed. And in response to what Edward had said about John J, it is true, we did have some residents in private rooms. There was, you know, a good portion of them in the dining area. And there was also a fourth floor that was dedicated to our dementia area for our residents with dementia for security. So Kevin over there, the Administrator and their staff, were phenomenal. And it is a great resource that the County has.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:

I just wanted to mention I'm looking at the Public Safety Committee. It's going to be, I think, September the 8th. And they're looking for comments. And that's a place you may want to attend or submit a comment to create better change so we're in a better place for emergencies.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

You know, you can see the issue pretty clearly. As Legislator Romaine points out, it's great to see that the County's Foley facility was able to play a role. But if there's a category two, if there's a category three, if it has that kind of impact along the entire south shore of Long Island, there isn't going to be enough room at the end. And if these types of agreements can't be honored with Nassau County or any other facility in Suffolk County, then you better have some alternatives in place. You mention schools.

MR. RAPPAPORT:

Right.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Suffolk County has agreements with several schools and they act as our shelters and they're identified well in advance. But I would think that this kind of a situation makes it very clear that perhaps our health care facilities that protect our most vulnerable have those kinds of agreement going forward as third sites, fourth sites, fifth sites that you can ultimately look to rather than make it a first come/ first serve race to the end because you can see a situation where that's exactly what would have happened.

MS. JOHANNSEN:

One of the frustrations for me being sort of the overseer for all the different Suffolk properties was Nassau County did a conference call pretty early in and gave us alternate numbers to call if we could not get through to the primary numbers because the primary numbers were just jammed. I was very fortunate to get in touch with Ann {DeSimone} who's part of the Office of Emergency Management in Nassau. And she actually gave me Bob {Prevary's} cell phone number. And that was the only way that I was able to get through to the Office of Emergency Management.

So just if there's one suggestion I would like to make is for the -- for everyone who runs this type of facility in Suffolk County, to have a list of alternative contact information. Because in the case of our particular emergency, the main numbers at the Office of Emergency Management, it was just ringing and going to dead. So they were so overwhelmed that every circuit was jammed apparently. That might be helpful.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

When you're preparing for an event such as this in Suffolk County, is there a particular person who is appointed as your contact person if you do need assistance at Suffolk County? Regardless of department, do you have the name and number? There might be a need for an alternative number, but is there a particular point person that you know of that you're assigned to that you know that that's where you're going to make that call?

MR. RAPPAPORT:

In what regard? Like the Department of Health-wise? Or County-wise or what?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Well, first of all I would think that although more often than not, I don't want to speculate, but more often than not if you are in need of assistance, that you're going to contact someone in our Health Department. But if there was a need that wasn't necessarily under our Health Department, if it was some other Suffolk County agency that you needed, would you need to go to the phone book and start to look up who you might contact? Or do you have an assigned go-to person?

MR. RAPPAPORT:

No, I would look it up, like you said. Or I would call the fire department and, you know, ask them for the resource number, which we called the East Northport Fire Department several times. And they responded quite well in the storm; removing trees that blocked our passage ways in and out of the buildings and things of that nature. So, you know, we would have called them probably if it wasn't Department of Health related.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

I'd love to get your insight from both of you. What kind of conversations that you had or didn't have with LIPA prior, as a part of your preparation process? Do you speak with them when you run drills, when you're going through your planning phase and what kind of conversations, in any, did you have with LIPA during and directly after the storm and what you thought of that experience?

MR. RAPPAPORT:

Yeah. I wasn't able to reach LIPA at all. Even the emergency number that's for health facilities wasn't there. And there was no one able to be spoken to. We were able to put in our address and phone number when it went onto an automatic list saying that they realized we need assistance. I was able to speak to the East Northport Fire Department, like I said, the non-emergency line and let them know that we were out of power. And they made a phone call and got through to a special number that they had at their disposal and that I was not privy to. And that's how they told us that we were one of the priority facilities that would be taken care of. But LIPA, I was not able to reach at all. I think I saw LIPA a day after when they were able to get back on the road. And I asked

them how long. And it was a supervisor. And he said "one to four days." You know, he couldn't give me a timeframe.

MS. JOHANNSEN:

Very similar situation. When we do our emergency planning, we actually do it with the local fire department. And the fire chief there signs off on it as well as New York State Department of Health has a division that works specifically on evacuation plans and disaster plans. So those are our normal contacts.

During this particular situation we had great difficulty getting any real answers or contact with LIPA. I actually -- one of my Nassau buildings just got power back late last night. And that was -- the administrator there was able to get a contact person. And he was responding to her calls, but he truly didn't have a whole lot of information to offer her during the process other than *we're trying to get a crew there*. But there was no real concrete information *you can expect power within the next 24 hours, within the next 48 hours*. It was *we'll get to it as soon as we can*.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Just for the record, Mr. Chairman, as you know I was a sponsor of the Oversight Committee on LIPA for this Legislature, which I believe is giving a report. I'm working with Legislator Horsley on that. My suggestion concerning LIPA's response and some of the other things, for example, most of the poles that are down are not LIPA poles, they're Verizon poles. And yet I don't see any Verizon effort at all in this effort. Something that was brought to my attention by CWA.

I would strongly suggest that our Presiding Officer might set up a select committee to look at what went right and what went wrong. I think I shared with my colleagues my comments regarding our emergency services in terms of their ability to keep the 18 Legislators at least posted as well as they kept media posted. Because a lot of our constituents called us and we were left without answers.

So I think that type of recommendation to our Presiding Officer to appoint a committee -- a special committee to look at what went right and what went wrong so we're better prepared for the next thing that comes would be a wise decision on his behalf. It's something I would recommend that you carry to him as Chairman of this Committee.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Okay. Clearly, then, there is no point person at LIPA? There is no one home at LIPA that was able to be helpful at least during this episode?

MR. RAPPAPORT:

No.

MS. JOHANNSEN:

Again, we did get the cell phone number of a supervisor after some effort. There were at one point, I think, out of my 13 buildings, I had five or six without power. And it does seem as though they did try to make the assisted living buildings a priority to restore power. And in most cases it was a huge tree that had literally just fallen across the power lines or maybe it was multiple trees. So I think that the coordination effort in some cases, at least this is what we were told, was that LIPA needed someone else to actually remove the tree that was causing the outage. And then they would come in and reconnect the lines. So I'm not sure; again, I'm not familiar with how that all works, but that's what part of the coordination difficulty seemed to be.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:

Again, I'm wondering how we can facilitate a more productive emergency plan. That seems really to be the issue between LIPA. What I was told when I visited the center yesterday, the Town of Brookhaven, the local government is the first response whatever -- as far as the residents respond to. And then, you know, the County provides the offices, they provide, you know, the place for the different Red Cross, the fire departments and the different areas. And there were probably about forty different avenues you could go. Just maybe something we can consider pertaining to seniors, maybe Holly -- maybe Holly can be a to-go person to get in touch with. Because you couldn't even get to our emergency centers. That's what had happened to get information so --

MS. JOHANNSEN:

Right.

LEG. ANKER:

So Holly could get in touch -- you know, could be the to-go person. And then facilitate the efforts that are needed for your emergency situation.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Yeah. I mean one of the first things that we can do for seniors, and Mrs. Anker and I both come from the Town of Brookhaven, is to convince our Town to stop requiring seniors to bundle up their -- it was reported on page 25 A of Newsday today -- bundle up all the twigs and branches and trees and cut it up into small sections and tie it up because otherwise they won't take it.

I represent four towns. The other three towns are just sending out their highway crews with payloaders and dump trucks to do exactly that; to clear the streets, not requiring it be broken up into small little piles. I mean I have a lot of difficulty -- you have a much older population -- I think my senior population is the most in the County of Suffolk, the First Legislative District. And the Towns on the east Riverhead, Southold, Shelter Island don't require that. They say just bring out your to stuff to the street, our payloaders will take it, dump it in a dump truck and take it away. In Brookhaven, I read today they're requiring them to break it up into small little pieces and tie it up into bundles.

Some of these piles are stacked high. I mean I don't see a senior doing that. I don't see seniors having access to chainsaws to do all of that. And what was more remarkable, it was claimed by the Supervisor that this was needed because they won't get federal aid. I checked with the Supervisors on the East End. They're all getting FEMA aid for any of the road removal that they're doing. And that should be the case in Brookhaven. You know, at some point in the day I will have -- or tomorrow I will have that discussion that the Town should start picking up whatever people are capable of dragging to the streets from the downed branches and trees on their property.

So, I mean if you really want to help seniors, that's the most effective way to do that. And I see you're sending a message, good. Let them know that I raise that concern because I'm sure that is going to be a concern. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:

Okay, again, I apologize. Why I was late and I'm sending messages, what's happening in my area is that there are people that have well water. They've had no water since the electric has been down. So I'm in touch with Suffolk Water Authority to try to get them some water and to try to find resources. Even if the CVS – FedEx them some batteries. I mean these people have been without electricity, you know, there are some very serious issues. And, again, I think this will be well discussed on September 8th. And it's at ten A.M. It's the Public Safety Committee meeting. And it's something that you may want to attend or at least submit some comment to.

MS. JOHANNSEN:

Where?

LEG. ANKER:

Right here. It's similar to this Committee but it's the Public Safety Committee.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

We know that your facilities are required to file a plan with New York State. Are you aware of any requirements that you have for developing a plan, filing a plan, putting Suffolk County on notice of a plan? Or is that strictly done with New York State or your local towns for that matter?

MR. RAPPAPORT:

I would assume maybe that the Town, the Department of Health locally would have gotten a copy. We submit it to an e-mail address that goes up to Albany. And what they do with it, I'm not sure. But I would assume that they would have -- I know the evacuation plans are reviewed by the surveyors that come to our building to make sure that they are acceptable and a good plan. I know that when they were in last, they had wanted me to get, you know, another facility a little further out, which we did. But, again, like you saw it really didn't matter in this situation. But they do review those plans for safety, so.

MS. JOHANNSEN:

I'm not as familiar with Suffolk County. But I also know -- but I do know that in Nassau County, the Nassau County Fire Marshal also visits our buildings at least once a year. And that's been signed off by them as well. The plan is signed off. And they do come once a year and check to make sure that we have safe evacuation routes and adequate lighting and, you know, no obstructions in the building that might cause a safety issue.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Other than what we've already discussed, do either of you have any other comments or suggestions or the kinds of things that we at the County level of government can do to be of greater assistance going forward into the future?

MR. RAPPAPORT:

The only other thing I would say is that when we evacuated our building from the gas leak that we had back in '09, which was a different type of situation, it was very nice even, though we have our transportation agreements, the local fire department who got there before I was able to get there since I live in Nassau County, arranged for a Hart bus to come and transfer our residents down the block to the Salvation Army, which was not at that juncture one of our safe points, but they were able to facilitate that with Major Bender. And I just thought that your local fire stations and their resources that they have at their hands is a wonderful thing that they do have. And, you know, and we look to them, like Kathy said, to review our plans and make suggestions. But as Edward said earlier, if this had been a category two storm, I don't know where we would have -- I really -- you know, thank God because I was not ready for a category two, I'll tell you that.

MS. JOHANNSEN:

My only suggestion would be that we are somehow made a part of the planning process prior to -- in a hurricane situation, we really should be part of the planning process because we're the boots on the ground. And we know what we've got in terms of support, availability, resources, and we can also be a resource potentially for some of those folks that are very isolated. And, of course, it would have to be on a case by case basis depending on what we can accommodate.

But I know that in Nassau County the Office of Emergency Management asked us to house two local residents who just could not be left at home. And we were able to do that safely. Obviously we wouldn't just be able to open our doors and say "come on in", but in the case of specific situations, we can also be a potential resource as well as somebody that might have needs. So I think if we're made part of that process, we can kind of help figure out what we've got, what we can share, what we can do to be a resource as well.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Well, thank you. Thank you both for being with us today. And we'll continue to continue our discussion and working together on these important matters particularly as it affects our most vulnerable here in Suffolk County. Thank you.

MS. JOHANNSEN:

Thank you. Thank you for having us.

MR. RAPPAPORT:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Welcome, Director Ronayne.

DIRECTOR RONAYNE:

Good afternoon. Thank you for the invitation to be here today. I hope and I think for obvious reason I'll be brief.

Other than the hurricane, and again, we are not an emergency services department, so we don't have a great deal to do with response beyond being in contact with the respective veterans organizations and our Veterans Advisory Board, which we did. We were in communication with all those folks throughout. And to the extent that we have a plan, we think that it worked fairly well.

Beyond that, we've got a few things happening in the community relative to the veterans programs; different events that are coming up. We actually will be issuing a calendar for the month of September in the next day or so. The one that I would hope, and I know you're all aware of, is on September 8th, the Tenth Anniversary Ceremony for the events of 9/11, which will be held at the Dennison Building at the 9/11 Memorial adjacent to Armed Forces Plaza.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Director, I can ask probably hour's worth of questions; but, yes, we'll keep it very brief for you today and hopefully you feel better.

DIRECTOR RONAYNE:

So you've had enough, have you? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Thanks so much for being with us today. We'll talk soon.

It is my pleasure to welcome Major McLaughlin, the Public Affairs Officer for the Civil Air Patrol Auxiliary of the United States Air Force who joins us today. Major, thanks so much for being with us.

MAJOR McLAUGHLIN:

Thank you, sir. I'd like to thank you specifically for inviting me here today. And good morning to you ladies and gentlemen.

Steve has invited me to come here and talk about something that's very near and dear to my heart. It's the Civil Air Patrol of which I've been a member for seventeen years. And we -- just a little bit about where our Civil Air Patrol came from, it was formed actually on December 1st, 1941, which most of you or all of you probably realize is six days before Pearl Harbor. The group of pilots could see what was going to happen; that there was a good chance that they -- all our private pilots and planes would be grounded because of the impending war.

At the same point in time we had a situation where our shipping was being decimated. We were in land lease with England. We were sending cargo ships over -- across the Atlantic at that particular point in time. The German U-Boats were coming right up to the end of the Harbor here in New York. And we're sitting there on the water. We just had periscopes up and watching for the ships to come out. And then they would track the ships and just trail right behind them until they were out like 10 or 15 miles or 20 miles out. And then they would surface and actually use their deck guns to shoot the ship until it sank. This saved their torpedoes for other ships, that they would be armed, that they couldn't do that with.

The pilots realized that there was a situation here that they could offer to the United States government. And what they did is they went to Fiorello LaGuardia and other important people at that time and proposed an idea whereby they would use their airplanes to do search for German submarines.

When they found the German submarines, then they would contact the Air Force which would come and bomb them or whatever they could do to destroy the submarines. Fiorello LaGuardia was instrumental in accepting that offer. And at that time December 1st, 1941, the Civil Air Patrol was formed. And three years later or two years later it became a part of the Army Air Force or under the Army Air Force.

In July 1st of 1946, it was made permanent under the Federal Charter. In May 1948 public law 557 made it the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The missions were immediately emergency services. And in the process of doing emergency services, we flew many, many missions in small aircraft. These missions went out over the Atlantic. At first we were only in New Jersey. Atlantic City, New Jersey in a small place, airport there. If you've ever been to Atlantic City, there used to be a field called Bader Field, which was right behind the casinos. And that field was the first field that was used by the Civil Air Patrol to send out patrols over the Atlantic.

These patrols at first were very frustrated pilots because they would spot a German submarine. And by the time the Air Force or whoever was operating at that time could get a plane that could do something about it, got there, the submarine would be surfaced and they would come out and they would see the plane flying overhead. And they would dive and disappear.

So in frustration, the pilots went again to the military and asked the military could they please carry a bomb or depth charge. And they were finally allowed to do just that. As a result they had a confirmed submarine kill during the war and an unconfirmed kill, which was -- they were not allowed to get credit for until after the war was over, when some scuba divers actually discovered the second German submarine. And they verified that that was the one that we had claimed.

Since -- after the World War was over, the Second World War was over, the Civil Air Patrol expanded its mission into aerospace education. And they then started a cadet program. The organization Civil Air Patrol as it exists today is a United States wide organization. We have what they call a wing in every state in the union. And there's also a congressional wing. Each state is a wing and there is also six regions separating -- so we have eight wing regions, 50 wings and New York wing is headquartered in Westchester County. We have ten groups in all of New York State.

This is the next area down. Long Island group is headquartered at Islip MacArthur Airport on Lincoln Avenue. There are eight squadrons. One in Nassau -- seven squadrons, I'm sorry. One in Nassau and six in Suffolk. And plus the Long Island group's headquarters makes a total of eight units. Located at Islip MacArthur Airport on the grounds of the area that is taken over by the Long Island group, we have three aircraft which are assigned to us. These aircraft are supplied to us by the Civil Air Patrol National. And they are paid for by the United States Air Force. United States Air Force also pays for all practice and actual task emergency missions that we use these aircraft for.

These aircraft and all members of Civil Air Patrol are volunteers. We're all -- actually dues-paying volunteers. We supply the money that actually helps the units on Long Island to work. The only paid members of Civil Air Patrol is at National Headquarters at the highest ranks.

We have one squadron in Nassau County. I think right now it's in Freeport. It was in North Bellmore. They were at the Freeport Armory. And if you're aware what's happening, a lot of the armories are now being turned over to the towns. And it's one of the problems that's being created for us in that some of the squadrons that are in armories have been able -- have been told to get out, that it's being turned over to the Town, the Town is going to use it for another facility.

This is obviously a big problem for us because we have weekly meetings with the senior members and cadet members. And we need a place that is -- that we can hold a large meeting. Squadrons run from -- anywhere from 15 up to 50 or 75 members. So obviously we need a place to drill and to meet and to have classes. Besides the Long Island group, there are New York groups. There's one in Queens, three in Brooklyn, two in Manhattan and one in Staten Island as far as I know. There may be more or less since I last put this together.

Our primary function is still emergency services. And we do search and rescue. In fact we tasked with 95% of all inland search and rescue. That includes aircraft, cars accidents, anything where we have to do a search and rescue. Somebody's missing, FEMA will get in touch with us and contact us. If an airplane, not a national airline aircraft, they're all in contact constantly. So they know if they go down and they know pretty much exactly where they are. But smaller aircraft both commercial aircraft and private aircraft, if they go down, they have a device called an ELT, Emergency Locator Transmitter. This locator transmitter is something -- works like the air bag in your car. When it is -- when it has activity whereby it stops suddenly, its movement is stopped suddenly, it will activate a switch and start transmitting. This transmission is received by the satellite and the satellite in turn -- when it makes two rounds and gets the same signal twice, it contacts the emergency center on the ground.

The emergency center on the ground then says, okay, where is it located? Personal -- the best example that I can come up with right now is the Kennedy crash. When Kennedy went down, it was very quickly notified of this situation and New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts were all tasked to go out and find the aircraft because of the fact that it was located so independently -- in the middle of it. I believe New Jersey might have been tasked for this.

There are personal radio beacons called Epirb. They are many times are carried by hikers. And there are also ones that work for boats. Nine times out of ten we don't get involved in the boat unless the boat is on shore and is being, you know, in dock or something like that and accidentally comes off. If it's out over the ocean, it's usually the purview of the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard

would be advised of that and they would look for that.

The satellites pretty much pinpoint down to within a quarter of a mile where the Epirb is or the LP is. Once they've been notified that there is ELT going off somewhere over Long Island, in our particular case, we activate a team which goes up in one of our aircraft. We have three aircraft right now. We have two 172's -- Cessna 172's and one 182. And these are used for search and rescue. They're used also for what -- how do you call it? Drug patrol, looking for weeds that shouldn't be growing in places that they're growing. We also do a patrol of the reservoirs, okay.

And during flight 800, when the disaster of 800 occurred, we did beach patrol. This was mostly done on the ground. The aircraft would fly over the beach, determine that there was some debris on the beach. And they would send out a team to patrol the beach and make sure that none of the debris was picked up by anybody who was authorized to do so.

The senior members do most of this -- the senior members do all the flying portion of the search and rescue. But there -- our Cadet Program involves training of our cadets. And they will also be trained to go out on what they call a ground team. This ground team is led by a senior member, but it could consist of up to ten cadets as well. These cadets are trained in search and rescue. They use a portable direction finding equipment to actually locate an ELT down -- right down to the aircraft itself. They will then perform emergency first aid. And if it's in an inaccessible area, the Air Force will be called in or other emergency services be called in to bring in a helicopter and drop an extraction team.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

How old are cadets?

MAJOR McLAUGHLIN:

Our Cadet Program accepts young people from 12 to age 18 basically. You cannot join as a cadet after age 18. You can join as a senior member from 18 on up. A cadet, once he's joined, he can stay in the program until he turns 21 and then he must either drop out of the program or become a senior member.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

And then the local locations that we have here in Suffolk County, do you have any idea how many cadets there are?

MAJOR McLAUGHLIN:

Right offhand I can't tell you how many cadets there are, but I can tell you how many we have in our squadron. We have 14 senior members and a total of 44. So that means we have 30 cadets in our squadron. Our squadron is the -- used to be squadron seven. We changed our name just recently to Leroy R. Grumman who was very -- is big in the aerospace industry here on Long Island.

We also have a squadron called Gabresky Squadron. This is located in Patchogue. There's -- squadron ten is at Islip MacArthur Airport right next to the reserve hangar there. We meet in the reserve hangar there. There's a squadron at the Patchogue armory currently. Hopefully they'll be able to stay there. This is another situation. They have been basically told any day now they're going to be thrown out of there and have no place to go.

The squadron that meets out at Brookhaven Airport is also possibly going to have to find a new home. They were meeting at the College there. And I don't know exactly what the situation is, but they may have to move, also. We have -- the other squadron is out in -- at Gabresky Airport. And Gabresky Airport fortunately is very much in agreement with us and wants us there. So they don't have a problem.

The Cadet Program -- a little bit more about the Cadet Program, it consists of boys and girls. It's kind of like Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts smooshed together with a lot more aerospace. And the cadets are trained in leadership courses and aerospace. They all have mentors assigned to them. They are also taught morale leadership and safety uniform form drill, customs and courtesies. The big difference between them and Boy Scouts is that -- and Girl Scouts, as they finish their achievements, they get a promotion rather than a badge on their sash. This promotion leads to more responsibility and is instrumental in their leadership development.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

I don't know if any of the Committee members have had family or friends that have participated in this program, but I can tell you that I have. And what an outstanding program and just a great experience for our young people particularly who participate. It really is a lifetime experience regardless of what they choose to do later on. Very many times they talk about what a great impact that it had on their lives, both in terms of leadership, as you point out, Major, leadership development and technical skills that they were able to learn along the way.

We are coming up on a hard break. The Environment Committee is scheduled to meet right after. But before the Major leaves us, I wanted to see if anybody has any questions for the Major? I have your materials here. I had an opportunity to take a look at them. Does everybody have the materials from the Major? Legislator Anker needs a copy. But, Major, anything else that you'd like to share with us today?

MAJOR McLAUGHLIN:

Well, it pretty well covers everything. I had more information on the Cadet Program but you also have that. Probably the biggest thing in the Cadet Program is the fact that the cadets get to fly. The availability of our airplanes is there and the availability of the Air Force that pay for the cadet, which they do whenever they've got enough money, the cadets are allowed up to six flights each. And these flights are -- the original flight is basically orientation. The additional flights are actual training flights for them where they get a chance to actually do things that they're learning in the Cadet Program.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:

I just want to thank you for coming here and giving us information on your program. It sounds wonderful. I'm a Navy brat. My dad was in the Navy active service for about 10 years and reserves for another 20. And he really wanted to be a pilot, go in the air, but he had an ear injury. He became a disabled vet and he wasn't able to do that. But providing these services for people who, you know, especially young kids who have the opportunity of doing this, test it out and see if this is where they want to go, thank you so much for doing that for them and for us, and as a country, because kids don't really know what they want to do until they've experienced something that leads them to the next step. And you providing this foundation to hopefully get them in our armed services and become part of what you've experienced throughout your life. So, again, thank you so much for coming here.

MAJOR McLAUGHLIN:

Thank you very much. Along that line, we do have one problem and it's an understandable problem in this day of age. And that is although Civil Air Patrol actually has a program whereby we can go into the schools, the Program has to be initiated by the school. And getting into the schools these days is almost impossible. The minute they hear that we're even a quasi-military, they immediately say "no, no, we're not interested."

But we actually have a school program whereby a school can start an after-school program which

runs on the same basis as our squadrons do. In fact, the top person in that Patrol Program in the school has to be a member of a squadron. Okay? So that they get a chance to see our program and understand how we run the program and then take it back to the school as an after-school program. And we've --

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:
I'm sorry, my Aide is going to contact you. We'll get information, try to facilitate your organization to get them into our classes, into our schools. So, again, if we can help in that way, Chris, my Aide, will be out to you see as soon as you're able to scoot over and give us that information. But thank you so much, sir.

MAJOR McLAUGHLIN:
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Major, thank you so much for everything that you do. And thanks so much for being with us today.

MAJOR McLAUGHLIN:
Thank you for the invitation.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay, we are going to go to the agenda. We have a couple of items on our agenda.

IR 1730 - Adopting Local Law No. -2011, A Local Law amending Local Law No. 5-2011, A Local Law to register non-profit veterans' organizations in Suffolk County. (Cilmi) This needs to be tabled for a public hearing. I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstention? **IR 1730 is tabled for public hearing. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1732 - Accepting and appropriating 100% reimbursable Federal ARRA Grant funds from the New York State Office for Aging for a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program. (County Executive) We heard from Holly, our Director, this is all good. This is 100%. So I'll make a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar, second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstention? **IR 1732 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0 AND PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR)**

IR 1749 - Declaring September 16 as "American Legion Day" in Suffolk County (Stern) I'll make motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstention? **IR 1749 is**

approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)

Anything else from anybody else on the Committee? Thank you all for being with us today. Legislator Anker makes the motion to adjourn, second by Legislator Romaine. We are adjourned. Thank you.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:10 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**