

SUFFOLK COUNTY COURT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

General Membership Meeting

**Suffolk County 5th District Court
3105 Veterans Memorial Highway
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
October 16th, 2025**

1. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

- a. Moment of Silence

2. ROLL CALL

- a. The Executive Board, comprised of Mr. John Tufarella (President), Mr. Raymond Trezza (1st Vice-President), Ms. Linda Scio (2nd Vice President), Mr. Eric Laskowski (Secretary Treasurer), and Ms. Danielle L. Vios (Recording Secretary) is PRESENT.
- b. 21 Delegates PRESENT / 10 Delegates EXCUSED

3. READING OF THE PRIOR MINUTES

- a. Motion To Waive

4. TREASURE'S REPORT – as of 10/16/2025

***given by new Secretary Treasurer Eric Laskowski**

- a. Union Account \$101,714.30
- b. Welfare Account \$984,287.94
- c. PAC Fund \$9,331.52
- d. Scholarship Fund \$72,947.70
- e. Union Investments \$5,017,376.17 *approx
- f. Union Investments \$331,259.79 *approx.

*President Tufarella spoke of what good shape the Union is in and how far we have come by comparing the union accounts from 2021 to now.

*The Union has taken on doing our own Journal this year for the Dinner Dance to help raise funds for the Union Scholarship Fund. We are not only able to award more scholarships to the members, but we will also be able to open an investment account for the future of this Union.

*Delegate Steven Sellers inquired about the (2) two investment accounts and what exactly is the difference between them.

*President Tufarella explains that the one investment account that currently has approx. \$5mill will keep the Union Welfare Account self-sustained for 30months if we were to not get the quarterly money from the state. The other Investment account is money that is for the Union to maybe have a building of it's own some day and not have to pay rent any more.

*President Tufarella also speaks of wanting to increase certain Benefits such as the Health Insurance Reimbursement for the Retirees and the Death Benefit. This will be something in the next Trustees Meeting.

*Delegate Sellers inquired if the excess funds from the Scholarship Fund can be used for the PAC Fund & if the President can explain the PAC Fund more to the newer members so they can understand the importance of it.

*President Tufarella explains that the PAC Fund is basically used to help advance our causes in Albany. If our Lobbyist informs us that we need to show support for something in order to further our position with a certain bill that will help our members, that is what the PAC Fund is for. It is not to back any certain party, it does not matter the political affiliation.

*Delegate Annette Lambraia asks if there is any way to possibly push the PAC Fund more to the members.

*Delegate Jonathan Rosenzweig asked if the contributions to the PAC Fund are tax deductible, and they are not as it is not a charity.

5. SICK LEAVE BANK

- a. The Current SLB balance is approximately 50,110 hours.
- b. We have not asked for contributions from the current members in almost 10yrs. Since 2020, nearly 20,000 have been used, which is why retired SCCEA President Gwinn felt it was necessary to return to the contractually agreed upon yearly contributions from the membership this past April.
- c. The only **yearly** SLB contributions have come from NEW employees (21hrs), new Transfers (14hrs), and Transfers that have once been employees of SCCEA that had promoted out of County & have transferred back (3hrs)
- d. SLB contributions also come from retirees who retire with over 1400hrs of accrued and unused Sick Leave Credits.
- e. President Tufarella explained that it had been believed that it was THREE (3) people (SCCEA President, Ken Carson & Lauren Baer) who together made that determination with the best (2) of the (3) had the final decision on the

approval of SLB. However, we have come to find this April the President has the FINAL decision on the granting of SLB.

- f. Since April there have been (3) SLB denials for various reasons. There are **MANY** things considered before approving SLB.
- g. President Tufarella has yet to decide if we are going to be taking the contractual contributions this April. The minimum that would be taken would be 2hrs/member. Contractually we can take up to 7hrs every year from each member for the SLB.
- h. SCC Joanne Negron as well as Delegates Beth O'Loughlin, Annette Lambraia & Patti Biazzo questioned if you can look back on someone's time and leave before approving for SLB. President Tufarella explained Lauren Baer (one of the three on the SLB Approval Panel) is the only one that can look into an employee's Kronos. We cannot discuss the issue with Supervisors as it is a HIPAA Violation.
It is ultimately the President's decision if SLB gets approved.
- i. President Tufarella explained there is no policy in place that states a person on SLB cannot go on vacation (approved AL) while out on SLB.
- j. New Employees are eligible to use SLB after (6) months of employment.
- k. Delegate Michael Parisi brought up a very good point about how difficult it is for Officers to come back to work following any injury because of the May or may Not form. No other title has that issue.
- l. Delegate Daniel Rapisarda inquired if there was some way the SLB users would have to contribute more to the SLB. Could this be something we could negotiate and possibly get a Side Letter for.
- m. Delegate Samantha Jaccard inquired if there was a cap on SLB. President Tufarella explained there is a yearly cap of 985hrs/yr but no cap on career.

6. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

- a. We currently have (7) outstanding. There have been (6) settled since April.
- b. We try to settle as many as we can rather than put fate in the hands of OCA.
- c. The biggest expense we have are the attorney fees for disciplinaries. They can be very lengthy and costly investigations.
- d. Social Media is a serious problem!!
- e. Disciplinary Actions can stem from things as simple as a conversation had between 2 people about Religion, Politics, Race, etc.

- f. Everyone has had OCA mandated Bias and Harassment Training, so please be mindful of your surroundings and respectful of your coworkers.

7. NEGOTIATION

- a. Technically we could start NOW since October is (6) months before the expiration of the contract. However, OCA has not shown any indication they are ready to start negotiating.
- b. Delegate Michael Mattera inquired about the Negotiating Committee. President Tufarella explained that there will be a Special Meeting when the time comes where we will select a Negotiating Committee.
- c. ACC Paul Carrollo inquired about what exactly we would be asking for as far as this round of negotiations.
- d. President Tufarella mentioned Geographical Pay (Location Pay) and the yearly percentages.
- e. ACC Philip Milton inquired if there were any more talks about the Clerical Assistant & Court Assistant Upgrades.
- f. Delegate Kristina Kahres described the working conditions of the Grade 12s in District Court.
- g. Delegates Jennifer Hoffman, Julie Hynes & Stephanie Habot also described the working conditions in Family Court of the Grade 12s & 16s
- h. Delegate Kerri Houlihan also described the working conditions of Grade 12s in Supreme Court.
- i. LT Jonathan Wrobel inquired about the Management Officer Title Upgrades as well.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **SCCEA Health & Wellness Fair 10/29/2025** – Will be in Central Islip on the 2nd Floor walkway between District Court & Supreme Court.
**CVS will be there giving the Flu Shot.
- b. **Flu Shots in County Court 10/30/2025** – 3rd Floor Training Room
- c. **SCCEA Dinner Dance** – Honoring Major Tony Mung as Person of the Year. Among the many reasons we are honoring him, he makes the wooden flags for the retirees free of charge & will only accept donations to the NYSCOA Widows & Children's Fund. In lieu of favors for the dinner, we are donating to the fund as well.

Delegate Annette Lambraia once again inquired about the Gloria Laskow award and why we are not awarding it this year at the dinner dance

President Tufarella responded that we did not think it was fair to award one person when there were multiple recommendations for the award that have overcome various life challenges. Therefore, we thought it best not to have the award at this time.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

MEETING ADJOURNED