



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Susan Serino

## RECRUIT NY TAKES CENTER STAGE AT CAPITOL

SUSAN SERINO April 6, 2016

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*Serino Stands with Volunteer Firefighters to Highlight Need*

ALBANY, NY—State Senator Sue Serino (R, C, I—Hyde Park) today joined Senators Kathy Marchione and Tom O'Mara; John D'Alessandro, Secretary for the Firemen's Association of the State of New York (FASNY); David Quinn, Chief Administrative Officer for FASNY and local volunteer firefighters to highlight the importance of recruiting volunteers and to announce that \$250,000 was secured in this year's State Budget to bolster recruitment

efforts.

*“Our volunteer firefighters lay their lives on the line for our safety without asking for a dime,” Said Senator Serino. “They embody what it means to be a hero and we need to be doing all that we can to ensure that our communities have the resources they need to recruit and maintain their volunteers.”*

Earlier this month, the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York (FASNY) released a **report** in which they estimate that New York’s 100,000 volunteer firefighters save the state’s taxpayers over \$3 billion each year. The report notes that if the volunteer force were to be converted to a paid force, property taxpayers would be on the hook for a increase between **3.3 and 123 percent, with the average increase being 26.5 percent.**

**Today’s press conference** kick-offed FASNY’s annual “Recruit NY” weekend, a successful initiative that promotes the recruitment of new volunteer firefighters by engaging fire departments across the state. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, fire departments across the 41<sup>st</sup> Senate District will host open house events in an effort to share their work with the community and attract new volunteers.

*“As representatives, we need to be doing all that we can to recruit and maintain our volunteers,” said Senator Serino who carries a bill aimed at incentivizing volunteers by providing them with a tax credit on their hunting and fishing licenses (S. 6690A) and co-sponsors a bill that would provide them an income tax-credit up to \$1,200 (S. 1831A). “The ‘Recruit NY’ event is a great way for community members to get involved and see first-hand what a critical role they can play by getting involved as a volunteer firefighter. With events lined up across Dutchess and Putnam Counties, we hope that even more will be inspired to serve.”*

*Senator Serino concluded by thanking the volunteers in her community and across the state, “While words are hardly enough to express our gratitude to our volunteer firefighters who play a critical role in the fabric of our communities, from the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your service.”*

To find a ‘Recruit NY’ event near you, visit [www.recruitny.org](http://www.recruitny.org).

