

# Metro-Dade Fire Fighters

05-06-19

8000 N.W. 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 222, Miami, FL 33122-1605

Phone: (305) 593-6100 – Fax: (305) 591-9654

Omar Blanco  
President

Brian Lynch  
First Vice President

Michelle Steele  
Second Vice President

Paul Blake  
Treasurer

Gabe Nemeth  
Secretary



## Executive Board Minutes (A-shift)

May 6, 2019

0830

### ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

President Omar Blanco(present)  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres. Brian Lynch(absent)0851  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres. Michelle Steele(present)  
Secretary Gabe Nemeth(present)  
Treasurer Paul Blake(present)

2019  
Ralph Fernandez(absent)  
Lisa Bullard(present)  
Christian Chuck(present)  
Andre Cruzeta(absent)1215  
Dan Cuoco(absent)0848  
Nick Digiacommo(absent)  
Billy McAllister(present)

2020  
Richard Andrews(present)  
Bridget Keating(present)  
Rocky McAllister(present)  
John O'Brien(absent)  
Lazaro Pereda(Present)  
Tim Porter(absent)0900  
Rick Ramirez(absent)0901

**Executive Assistants:** Chris Fink, Felipe Lay(present)

**Benefits Officer:** Claudine Buzzo(present)

**Trustees:** John Askham, Randy Brown, Jeff Hackman

**Meeting called to order at 0844:** Pledge of allegiance, moment of silence.

**Member/Guest:** Vern Oster, Manny Reyes(lobbyist), Wayne "Bernie" Bernoska(FPF candidate for President), Rick Fernandez

### Previous Meetings Minutes:

**Motion by Bullard to approve the previous E-Board meeting minutes. Second by Chuck, motion passes.**

### Member/Guest Presentation:

Vern Oster – (0852) Presentation to the Local in an attempt to get support both financial and administratively towards moving to use an SCBA that would have firefighter's breath 100% oxygen. He explained the department has agreed to start a form of testing but the issue is filling the bottles. The data shows the benefits of breathing 100% oxygen and how it help with recovery.

Manny Reyes (Lobbyist) – (0945) Presented a verbal report to the Eboard outlining the sequence of events that led to the Cancer Coverage bill being signed and named those involved that supported us along the way during the Legislative session that closed on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>. Secondary explanation on the direction the FPF priorities should proceed.

Wayne "Bernie" Bernoska (FPF) – (1035) Addressed the Eboard on his bid to be the next President Of The Florida and presented his platform. He stated that he will fight for the FPF's legislative agenda such as FRS COLA restoration, Firefighter Bill of Rights, Cancer Coverage (fine tune) and any other legislation that diminishes our benefits. He believes the FPF needs to utilize newer methods to engage our members. He was advised by the local that we would not endorse anyone until both candidates were given the opportunity to speak to the local.

Rick Fernandez – (1320) Presentation to the board on a way to educate our members reference their pay. He has had numerous discussions/presentations (informal) as a relief Captain at different stations and has determined that our members have limited knowledge or misinformation when it pertains their pay. He would like to see the Eboard establish a way to educate our members with this information to the. Determine to set up a smaller meeting to see how to proceed. Fernandez offered his assistance.

### Correspondence: None

### Reports of Officers:

Omar Blanco: President's Report – 0920

- Cancer Bill signed by Governor on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all in the Local that put in time and effort to make this happen- The FPF handed a \$5000 to Local 1403 to help with the cost associated with all the work that was done with the bunker gear.
- Proposed settlement for the Longevity Arbitration which will bring everyone back to where they should be effective 3/8/19. Out attorney asked a copy of settlement for review.

# Metro Dade Fire Fighters IAFF Local 1403

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, AFL-CIO, CLC

President's report Continued:

- Politics –with regards to the questions on the IAFF endorsement of Joe Biden- we remind members that the Local and IAFF endorse candidates that have supported fire service related issues, not on other non-public safety issues many of our members are passionate about. We also appreciate and respect our members have their own and very personal political views. While Local 1403 has not made any political endorsements thus far in any future election, our focus is on a historical shift in our County Commission in the 2020 elections. Due to term limits, the makeup County Commission will change drastically. We also have a Mayors race that will have more impact on Public Safety and the safety of our brothers and sisters than any other State or Federal Race. We mustn't allow a difference of opinion or political party to wedge a divide amongst our members. We ask our members to educate themselves on the issues that affect the fire service. We strongly encourage our members to consider our endorsement prior to making a decision. However, we cannot allow a difference in political opinion to tear apart the incredible bond of we share of taking care of one another and our families. On a State level (FPF) priorities will be the COLA floor and other FRS items such as 25 year retirement.
- Grievances – we continue to work on the procedure and keeping of timelines for tracking purpose
- Battalion Rep – please go out to your stations to keep members informed and bring back to the board any issues they might have.
- Fire OPS – Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>, hope to see you all there to help.

Paul Blake: Treasurer's Report – Financial report, any questions please reach out to Blake.

Gabe Nemeth: Secretary's Report – continue to reach out to members as you do your rounds in the battalions and ask them to give you examples on how we can improve communications to the members.

Brian Lynch: 1st VP Report – Grievance report

Michelle Steele: 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report – Grievance /Discipline report

## Report of Committees:

- **Health & Safety –**
  1. Continue to turn in SCAR's when an issue comes up as this starts the process
  2. SPF shirts for Fireboat – delay waiting on policy
  3. Bunker Gear exchange update – will call Minerva in an attempt to understand the where the delay is.
  4. Hand sanitizers – they have been ready to go and waiting on facilities to install them at the stations.
  5. NIOSH Report – verify that a stations have the report for educational purpose.
  6. Station design (future) – The local should have input – bring item up at Labor Management
- **Fire OPS –** Walkthrough at 0900 on Wednesday – still looking for Volunteers
- **By-Laws -** The committee has discussed some changes (clean up language, meeting dates, electronic voting, notification to members) and will bring them to the June meeting for discussion.
- **Benefits Officer –** If any of our members needs assistance and we need to utilize article 19 please contact the office prior to, we have developed a process for record keeping in the event the information is needed.

## Unfinished Business:

Nemeth – FPF Convention in June – verified with Eboard any changes to determine the number of delegates and alternates needed.

Blake – Credit card policy – Meeting with Trustees to develop an improved process of record keeping and usage.

Lunch Break(1250)

Back (1305)

## New Business:

Chuck – Will the county insurance changes affect our trust – The local's attorney is looking into it and we need numbers from the Trust before we know how it will affect us. If it does the county will have to negotiate with the local prior to any changes.

Ramirez – CR Recue bid and recue pay during training – They need to work 4 days on the rescue to receive the pay all the time otherwise is only when in the seat.

Cruzeta – SRA requirement for Fireboat (John Long)- is it a class or a requirement for a bid and how will it effect others

## Good and Welfare:

**Motion to adjourn at 1403 by Bullard. Second by Ramirez motion passes.**

In Unity,

Gabe Nemeth, Secretary

IAFF Local 1403

*Dade County Fire Fighters*

*"Not a Job – A Commitment"*