

Metro Dade Fire Fighters IAFF Local 1403

08-26-18

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, AFL-CIO, CLC
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Omar Blanco
President

Brian Lynch
First Vice President

Michelle Steele
Second Vice President

Paul Blake
Treasurer

Gabe Nemeth
Secretary



UNION MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2018 (B-Shift)
8:00 PM

President Omar Blanco(present)
1st Vice Pres. Brian Lynch(present)
2nd Vice Pres. Michelle Steele(present)
Secretary Gabe Nemeth(present)
Treasurer Paul Blake(present)

2018
Bridget Keating(absent)
Rocky McAllister(present)
John O'Brien(present)
Robert Ortega(present)
Lazaro Pereda(present)
Rick Ramirez (absent)
Dale Sutton(absent)

2019
Lisa Bulard(present)
Christian Chuck(present)
Andre Cruzeta (present)
Dan Cuoco(absent)
Nick Digiacomio(present)
Billy McAllister(present)
Adam Parks(present)

Call to Order at 8:15 PM

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of Silence observed: Retired FF Charlie Rodriguez
Guests: none

Report of Officers and Committees:

President's Report: President Blanco wanted to thank all those that volunteered today at the polls on a very successful day. All 5 commissioners won their election. He specially thanked Andre Cruzeta, Jorge Chavez, Robert Ortega, Lazaro Pereda, Richard Andrews, Eric Fundora and John O'Brien for their hard work in coordinating all the campaigns that we were involved in. Great Work.

- Mold Issue – Fire Chief was invited to attend and explain the departments actions but it was determined by the principal officers that the best course of action would be for the principal officers to speak to the membership first. Many lessons have been learned by all involved the most important one being that our members health and safety is a priority. The first issue to resolve is that the department has a process in place when mold is found. This needs to include: that an outside vendor with proper qualifications evaluate and mitigate the issue not facilities; that when a service request with a mold concern is submitted that it follows a chain of command; any reported window or roof leaks be forwarded to Safety Chief. Station 29 is being reconstructed and it will be evaluated prior to crews being placed inside, it will also be tested at 30 days then at 90 days. The department is opening an investigation in an effort to determine what went wrong and that it does not occur again.
- Contract Negotiations – The last meeting was on 8/21 and we have about 40 articles TA'd. Finance articles are being help up by the county, their offer is not worthy of membership consideration. The next meeting is scheduled for 9/26.
- MDA Station visits – We have visited nearly all the station informing our members of the importance of collecting, also updated members on different issues.
- Class 135 graduated on 8/24 and welcomed members in attendance to tonight meeting from class 135
- IAFF 54th Conference – attended by members of the board and celebrated the 100 year anniversary of The IAFF.

Treasurer's Report: Blake reported on the balance of all accounts. Blake also advised the members that the IAFF raised the per capita this year at the 54th Convention. The raise in per cap comes out to be \$0.46 a pay period.

1st VP Report : Lynch reported that the local is working on 2 terminations and 2 suspensions. VP Lynch wanted to remind members that if they file a verbal please advised the office so the local can keep track of the time line.

2nd VP Report: Discussed mold issues that had been presented at the Health & Safety Committee. Introduce Claudine Buzzo as the benefits officer and advised if any concerns with exposure reports from the mold issues to contact the office.

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Correspondence: none
Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

Motion by Executive board that the department bid the venom vacancies as they currently are. Second by Digiacomo, motion passes.

Nick Digiacomo presented to the members an explanation on mold and the health concerns as he understands them.

Christian Chuck suggested that mold inspection be part of our contract language since if it a safety issue. He asked President Blanco if he felt that providing the RV's to station would set a precedence. President Blanco responded no to the setting precedence.

Numerous members brought up their concern of the department decision not to assign SCBA regulator to individuals. The departments plan is to have the regulators assigned to the units and the members sharing them. President Blanco advised he would bring the concerns to Labor Management and convey the body's concern.

Tim Porter brought up a question on a ½ cent sales tax to be moved out of the county budget and if that would affect us. President Blanco explained that since we have our own millage rate it would not affect us.

Motion by Michelle Alvarado that the local take a position against sharing SCBA regulators and that every member be assigned their own. Second by Christian Chuck, motion passes.

Wil Fleites requested additional information as why the trailers were not removed due to the contamination concerns, was the school board notified of the reported contamination on their grounds. M.Steele stated that facilities advised it was not an option because on contract with vendor and President Blanco stated he did not know if school board was notified.

Billy McAllister brought up a mold issue at station 30 and how individuals are getting sick. President Blanco advised that if members are sick they need to file exposure reports but most important they need to seek medical attention. President Blanco advised that he would go by station 30 in the morning and request to see if the Fire Chief was available to go to see the issue.

Motion by Nick Digiacomo that Local 1403 request that all personnel from station 30 and station 70 be relocated until their mold issue resolved. Second by Billy McAllister, motion passes.

A member posted a question on contract negotiations and starting them earlier. President Blanco advised that we are currently working during these negotiation on language that would resolve that but the county is not in agreement.

Motion by Eric Sarduy that the Local request from MDFR to place the equipment removed from the rescues (ex. Saws, hose, etc) back on the units. Second by Paul Blake, motion passes.

Scott Mulin discussed issues and concerns that our members are going to be presented dealing with animal rescues now that the department is removing the Venom Bureau from 24 hour response. Mulin advised he presented the Fire Chief with an email with all of the concerns. President Blanco requested a copy of the email so he can go to the Fire Chief with that information.

Harvey Manning commented on his perception that there is a disconnect inside the E-Board. He stated it is evident during these current discussions. President Blanco commented that at times it is difficult to get everyone on the same page but we continue to work on it.

Quorum lost at 11:05 PM

Good and Welfare: none

Motion to adjourn at 2310. Motion adopted.

In Unity,
Gabe Nemeth, Secretary
IAFF Local 1403

**Next Meeting September 25, 2018.
12:00 PM(noon)C-Shift**

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