

THE JUMPLINE

INFORMING INSPIRING Brotherhood SERVING



1 year later

**Remembering
the lives lost
at the Surfside
building collapse
And the emotional
work performed
by Metro Dade
Firefighters
Local 1403**

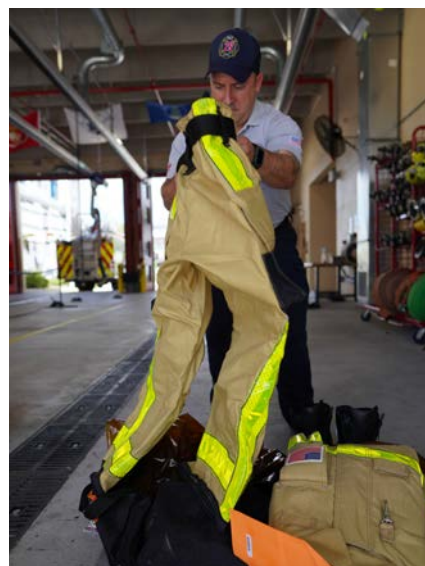


Inside:

- President's message
- Fire Chief's message
- 1403 Officers' Report
- Members Giving Back
- Retiree Report
- On the Beat Photos
- Support and Help
- MDFRs New Pre-Connect
- Dispatcher Report
- And More...



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Official Publication of the Metro-Dade Firefighters

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Want a copy of THE JUMPLINE magazine mailed to you?

Subscriptions: We know that many of you would like a copy mailed to you. However, we do not have that feature set up yet, and are considering different methods to accomplish this. Please be patient and look for detailed instructions in the October 2022 edition. Everyone will receive it electronically for now if you have an updated email with the Local. We have 3115 members and are the 6th largest Local in the Nation. The new revamped Jumpline may require a small affordable subscription fee to help offset the costs if we can't do it in a different manner. But we are evaluating all options. More info in October. If you'd like to volunteer to help with Jumpline duties send us an email. You're hired! jumpline@local1403.org



Welcome back to our Jumpline.

This newsletter was once the source of firsthand information from our leaders and officials, and this membership could depend upon its regular quarterly distribution to keep current on what Local 1403 was concerned about and focused upon. Over the years, and with the advent of online forums and later social media, it faded away into an ever-quickening landscape filled with alternatives competing for all of our attention. Email blasts, Facebook groups, Instagram posts, TikTok videos, YouTube shorts and WhatsApp groups have decentralized how we each receive information and communicate with one another. As the ways we talk to one another has evolved, this Union never really was able to keep up. We are working to change that, and the reemergence of the Jumpline is another step in better connecting with our members. Here's what we've done so far and what you can expect to happen in the future.

In 2020, I asked Nick Digiacoia to lead an effort to digitize all archival documents in the Local's possession. At the outset, we had no idea how audacious this goal was. Two years later, as the project nears completion, it added up to well over 1 million pieces of paper, stored in a variety of conditions, spread out across three buildings over the past three decades. We've preserved so much of our history, and through the licensure of software, Union staff can now find virtually any information we have with the equivalent of a Google search.

We replaced our aging website with an entirely new one, built from the ground up, using the latest software. The new website is located at <https://www.local1403.org>. Our Secretary Chris Fink now has a platform where he can more easily present a wide variety of information and



facilitate its distribution far and wide with a click of the mouse. The website is web-responsive, making it simple to navigate, whether you are browsing it from a phone, tablet or laptop. This resource will continue to grow over time, and as more and more digitized information is processed, this website will become an ever more valuable repository of information.

This fall, in collaboration with the Health Trust, we will launch an entirely new membership database known as Unionware. This application replaces a failing and poorly designed database that was unable to keep up with thousands of members. This new software will better and more securely manage your personal contact information, providing each of you with access to update your contact information, to fill out paperwork and process payments.

I am committed to sending out regular emails to the membership providing frequent summaries of current events and background information on topics of interest. I truly appreciate those members that take the time to read these detailed communications, as it adds factual and firsthand details to conversations that are going on around kitchen tables. Up to this point, these emails have been sent out by Secretary Fink, and they quickly become buried in email. Beginning next month, we are adding a section to our website where all "Messages from the President" will be posted and kept in perpetuity.

To expand our ability to document what this Local and its members do on a daily basis, I recently added Lauren Murrell to our team. Lauren brings with her a wealth of experience in videography and video editing. What she

can do gives us another avenue to reach out and talk with one another and to better connect with the communities we service. As we begin to establish a greater social media presence, her expertise will undoubtedly help us share our stories, and you will see more video content coming soon.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge Eric Goodman and his selfless dedication to documenting this Local's daily events. I really enjoyed the days he spent riding along with us at Firehouse 30 over the years, and now in this role, I am in awe of the frequency I see him. His love for this Union and this fire department is apparent. Whether rookies are starting their first day in the fire academy, or members are actively working emergency incidents somewhere in Miami or a senior guy or girl is finishing out a storied career with one last shift, he always seems to find the time. Eric, thank you for being there.

With all that said, I hope you enjoy this first edition of reimagined Jumpline. I am so thankful that Jack Swerdlhoff has accepted the awesome responsibility of Editor-In-Chief and shares my vision to grow this publication from a newsletter format to a trade magazine that provides an incredible value to our membership and firefighters all over. The strength of this Local starts with small, individual contributions from each member. If each of us contributes just a pound of effort to any cause, this Union will wield more than a ton of weight, and with sufficient direction given to such a powerful force, there is nothing that can withstand Local 1403's collective strength.

THE JUMPLINE magazine has arrived!



A Work in Progress!

The publication coincides with the release of the new digital version of the magazine, a completely revamped platform with a new design.

Many more updates on layout and format are coming. Please be patient.

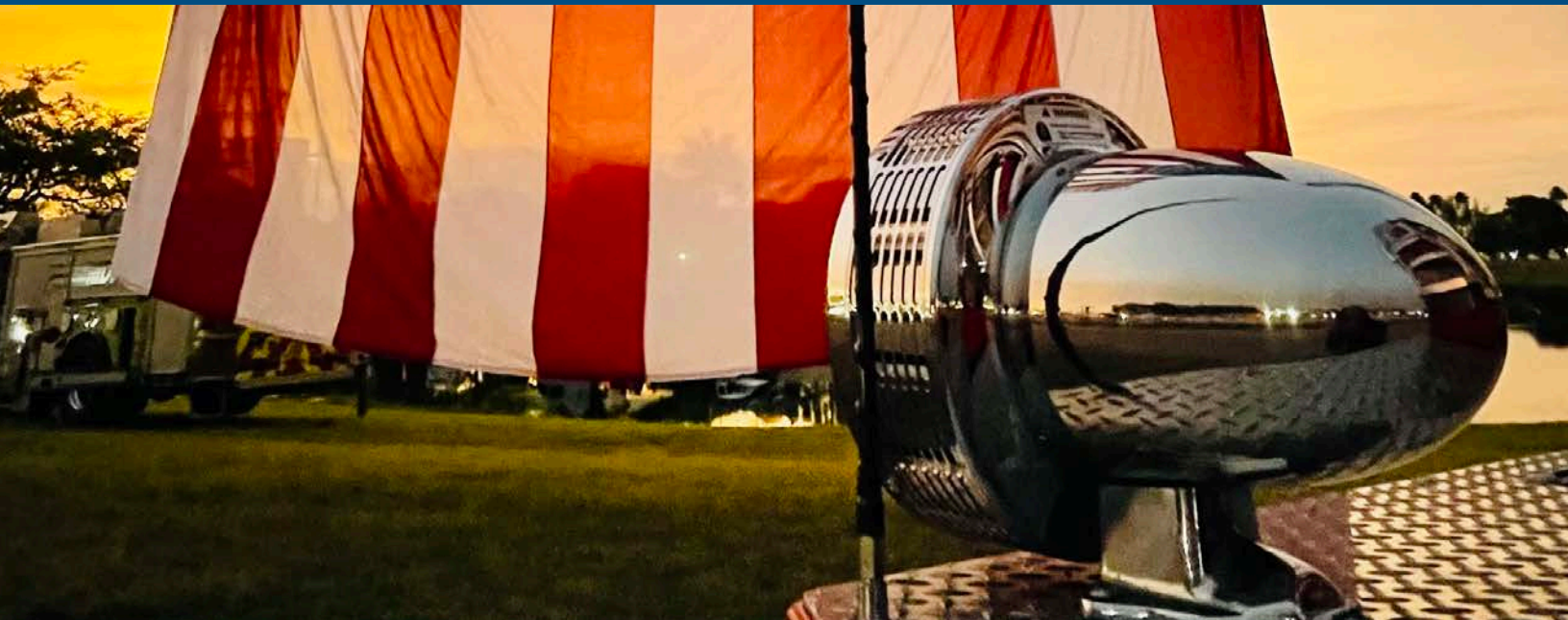
Our Covers

1 year later Remembering the lives lost at the Surfside building collapse, and the emotional work performed by Metro Dade Firefighters Local 1403

Cover Photos: credit to "Miami-Dade Fire Rescue".



41st Annual Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial Ceremony
"All Give Some, Some Gave All"



by Alan R. Cominsky
MDFR Fire Chief

Message from the Fire Chief



Welcome back, Jumpline! Although it's been a few years, we remember you fondly and are grateful for your return. The Jumpline, with its long rich history, is a great source of communication for all MDRF firefighter personnel to express themselves openly. I would like to thank The Jumpline Committee for allowing me to contribute to the new era of publication.

There is much to reflect upon as we approach the one year anniversary of the building collapse at the Surfside Champlain Towers. Our community is still recovering from the loss of so many precious lives. MDRF and the members of Local 1403 worked tirelessly during this tragedy, performing the most dangerous and heart wrenching of tasks, not stopping no matter how difficult the assignment. Watching the enormous effort put forth by everyone wearing the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue uniform is a source of pride for me as your Fire Chief.

I implore you to be mindful of each other. These are still trying times, weighing heavy on many of your brother and sister firefighters. We must take care of each other. As we move forward, we stand strong and steadfast, "Always Ready, Proud to Serve."

Alan R. Cominsky
Fire Chief



by Lisa Bullard
Second Vice President

1403 Officers

Grievance Flow Chart

Hello from your Second Vice President. I want to update you on what we have been up to since being elected, but first I want to thank all that supported me. It truly means a lot that you entrusted me to represent this Local, so THANK YOU.

With COVID almost behind us, we have hit the ground running. The President asked that we come up with a way to better serve the membership through open communications and streamlining the grievance procedure. With that being said I would like to share with you some of the changes.

In the future, should you file a grievance, you may receive correspondence from Saylin Paez. Saylin will be working with us a few days a week to help track grievances and arbitrations as they move through the process. She will also assist with scheduling of members for grievance committee meetings and for arbitration preparation. She may reach out to let you know what is needed or expected of you during this process.

In addition to the 1st Vice President - The Man, The Myth, The Legend - Brian Lynch, who is the most requested representative, you will also be seeing and hearing from John Kelly. John is not only the President's Executive Assistant, he has been assisting us with grievances and arbitration preparation. John has taken the

initiative to learn the arbitration process and is doing member representations for discipline and grievances.

The intent is to improve the grievance process and communication through building a team that is working to better represent you. I ask that you exercise patience, as nothing in the County bureaucracy moves at light speed. The grievance process takes time. If it follows the timeline to a T, it is 80 days to move through its entire trac. It could move at a faster pace and sometimes does. There are many factors that cause delays: battalion days, training, vacation time, and so on. We will try to adhere to all time lines.



Arbitration is another time thief, and has a process of its own. Scheduling arbitration is a chore in itself, and there are many moving parts. This requires not only the planets aligning but attorneys for both sides, the arbitrator, the representatives for the County and the Union, the affected member and witnesses. We will be setting up a spread sheet to track and call monthly to let the member know the status of pending their arbitration. This is just a start and we hope that with some minor changes that our members will not feel left in the dark like the raccoon I just evicted from my attic.

Thank you and stay safe.



Objective of the grievance process is to achieve a sound resolution based on the working intent of the current agreement.

STEP 1

Member must discuss the grievance with immediate supervisor (Battalion Chief or Bureau OIC)

Decide Career service versus Union grievance (Career Service has no ability for binding arbitration)

Verbal- Must be submitted in **E Grievance application** within **10 Days** of discovery of the aggrieved action.

Response- 10 Days from verbal, the Division Chief in grievant's direct chain of command shall respond in writing to the employee and the Union.

Class Action grievances go directly to Step 2.

STEP 2

Employee will receive notification of step 1. Employee will elect appropriate tract, Local1403 or Career Service (**Career Service has no ability for binding arbitration**)

Employee will reach out to a Union Vice President to discuss grievance. (Vicepresident@local1403.org)

Vice President will assign a grievance number if grievance is in order.

Union -10 Days to reduce to writing the grievance to the

Division of Professional Standards (DPS) from when response was due at Step 1.

(DPS)- 15 Days to meet (Step 2 hearing) with the Union representative and employee from date grievance is reduced to writing by the union.

Response- 10 Days from the date of the meeting (Step 2 hearing), the Division of Professional Standards shall provide a written response to the grievance.

STEP 3

Appeal to Fire Chief

Union- 10 Days to appeal to Fire Chief from the date of receipt of the response in Step 2.

Fire Chief- 15 Days to meet (Step 3 hearing) with the Union representative and employee from date of appeal to the Fire Chief. Meeting may be with the Fire Chief or his designee.

Response- 10 Days from the date of the meeting the Fire Chief or his designee shall provide a written response to the grievance. This response shall contain copies of all material reviewed and relied upon in making a determination.

Request for arbitration must be made within **30 days** of Fire Chief's response of Step 3.

***Note either side can ask for an extension **not to exceed the same time frame (10 Days)** at any step.

***Timelines may not be exact as members may be off for approved leave, or required training.



TREASURER'S Report

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and select
Dade County Association of Firefighter Charities
as your charity of choice.

tor, way back when I was a battalion representative "Tales from the Fifth." That is where it all began. On more than once occasion I was called into the President's office on behalf of somebody who was "bothered" about something I wrote

I have had the pleasure of looking back at previous editions which chronicled numerous accomplishments and achievements by the local. Whether it was passing the bond issue back in 1994 (which provided funding to build Headquarters and Training Complex as well as ten fire stations" or the reinstatement of the 3% special risk benefit in 1988, it was your

Local, your efforts, that secured those victories.

While we have many issues currently, the biggest one deals with our state association – Florida Professional Firefighters. We ceased passing along your dues to that organization in August of 2021. We have been hoping that we can come to some type of agreement regarding our differences, but that has not occurred. We will send the decision to withdraw from the organization to you, the members. "They like our dues they don't like our views".

I occasionally get called and asked by a member "why am I paying more in union dues than the person sitting next to me?" The base rate for dues is \$40.10. Some members choose to participate in the union life insurance and/or vision programs. That is why not all "due deducted" are equal. If anyone is paying less than \$40,10, please let me know.

Superbowl tickets are a hot item. This past year, we added an additional \$25,000 in prizes. There are 800 tickets issued. We currently have 620 pre-sold. That leaves 180 tickets for sale. One-way to get a ticket is to sign up as a Charities member at \$10/pay period. For those, retired, you can send a check for \$260. Cost of stand-alone tickets is \$150 and will go on sale at the end of December.

I hope to see you at our monthly get togethers: Kegs and Eggs or a general membership meeting. Anytime you want to pass by to look at the "books" please let me know. If you have any questions about your dues or how we are spending them, feel free to email me: treasurer@local1403.org or call me: 786-437-2576.

It is great to be back! The last time I wrote an article, I was not retired. Now, I am. One question I am often asked is "how do I enjoy retirement?" I like it very much. I just do not like how my career ended going into it. I am happy though that "bitterness" came to me at the very end and not at the middle or beginning of my career. That I was able to enjoy every minute of working alongside of each of you.

The next question "why are you butt hurt?" I get it. I sound like a broken record. I am so grateful about the genuine love and support this membership shows me. It is the organization that does not. I cannot remember the last employee evaluation that was not overall "outstanding." I would consider myself a supervisor's dream. I do not mean to brag, but when you love what you do, racking up points is easy.

Fair to say, many were concerned about how I would adjust. I too was worried. When I went to headquarters to pick up my thirty-year plaque, it was given to me in an envelope by a civilian. I signed for it. That was it; not a single uniformed person, other than the restricted duty personnel to offer me the much coveted "thank you for your service." Yup, just another employee number. I was so angry (and in some ways still am) and resentful that it made the transition much easier.

The biggest challenge in retirement is what to do. Twice a week I knew what I was going to wear and was certain that I would eat at least twice a day. It is no secret that many of us have ADD/ADHD. The constant stimulation from listening to the radio was my medication. When it comes to mundane tasks, I am indecisive. Just figuring out what I am going to wear is a challenge to me. Add those extra two days (whereas I no longer wear a uniform) and you can see why I have my moments.

Honestly, I am not retired. I just do not ride the trucks anymore. While I had a career longevity position, truth is, it is a younger person's job. I signed up to be a part of the Reserve program which enables me to stop by the station and remain relevant. Retirement is like eating and getting full on ground beef as opposed to prime rib.

Many thanks to Captain Jack for stepping up and orchestrating the return of the Jumpline. I have been a regular contribu-



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Some of you may know what my role is as the Benefits Officer, and some may not. In this article I will explain my roles and responsibilities. My name is Claudine Buzzo I have been on the department for 20 years. I have been the Benefits Officer for a little over 5 years now and I have had to learn a lot and am still constantly learning daily.

What are my roles you ask? One of my main functions is your optional life insurance. If you are an active union member the union provides a \$10,000 basic life policy for free. Should you want more coverage you can opt for voluntary life insurance during our open enrollment. This life insurance is not to be confused with the county life insurance that allows you to opt for 8x your salary. When you retire, the union life policy transfers over and stays with you. The County does not transfer. I also handle Long Term Disability claims of which the union pays for as well.

As the Benefits Officer, I also handle workman's comp issues. As most of you know, the workman's comp system can be very difficult to navigate. As a union we don't have a lot of say in how workman's comp operates, but we do have a rapport with the adjusters



for any issues that may come up. I handle any incorrect bills that you receive from workman's comp, which happens quite frequently. I also handle all questions regarding the Heart and Lung Bill, as well as putting on informational seminars.

If you are struggling with substance abuse and you just don't know where to turn, I am the person who can help you anonymously. I help you utilize article 19.9 which states if you come to me voluntarily, I can get your time covered should you need to go to a 30-day treatment facility. I am also on the I.A.F.F Peer Support Team and am here even if it is just to talk.

In July of 2019, very important legislation was passed in the State House and Senate. It states, if you receive one of the 21 cancers stated on the Cancer Bill you will receive a one-time payment of \$25,000 tax free to help with the burden that comes with that diagnosis. I will handle the start of that process for you.

We never ever want to forget our retirees so with that, I also handle the payments for the retiree's life insurance and union dues. I handle their workman's comp issues as well because once you leave you may still carry a claim. My cellphone number is on all the shift calendars Please do not hesitate to call if you have any issues.

Q&A with 2 Survivors

by Jack Swerdloff, Ret.

Not everyone survives adversity, or survives well, or survives and thrives, or survives before they lose this spectacular career, or survives before they get divorced, or before they irreversibly ruin relations w/ kids, family, and friends. My hope with this series is that it saves a person or two from that bad fate.

Through a range of styles we will provide survivor stories in each edition of The Jumpline. This inaugural revamped edition has it in a Q and A format. There are people among us struggling, sometimes we all secretly know their plight, sometimes we don't. Let's try to reach out to them and help them through the BroThERhood of MDRF people that have been there and done that.

Q and A with Captain Doug Keller and D/O Jason Blasi of the Phoenix Group about their journey with substance abuse.

Jack: How would you say someone should evaluate if they, or someone they know, have a real problem?

Doug and Jason tag team: "Is using a substance causing 'negative consequences' in your life, but your unable to stop". Negative consequences is the key term. How do you define negative consequences? Many ways including too much time away from loved ones,

too much money, legal issues, or maybe a drain on your family to name some. If something is bad we stop doing it. But what if we can't?

They say, until that moment comes when the person is really ready, the addiction is tough to break.

Jack: How does the Phoenix Group help newcomers?

Jason: Starts off with **extending our hands**, literally and figuratively. People in dark places need to be approached gingerly at first. I am all about using grace and love to help people in need and help them stay on course. That starts with an extended hand, and kind words of encouragement to go with it.

Doug: **Officers and peers evaluating an employee or friend with a problem have the same starting procedure: #1 extend your hand.** Sure, we have policies, but we've got to start with peace. Even if an officer is proceeding more formally. But especially in cases if your simply curious/ concerned and you want to have an informal chat with one of your people. You may not know how to do that delicately with an extended hand and heart. Reach out the Phoenix Group at phoenix@local1403.org and

we'll guide you.

Jason cont.: This doesn't discriminate. I'm all in on reducing



stigmas. Facilitating conversations. One way our group finds success is by showing that being honest and vulnerable brings and breeds real conversations. That angle helps our group avoid some common pitfalls that scare off some would be attendees. Some are afraid of being hammered with discipline. Unfortunately, some people find their safe place in other social groups where a person can even be enabled. We want them to come find strength to get better with us, here at Phoenix Group meetings. An important thing in general, especially with paying it forward, giving back, is that you can revert **UNLESS YOU FIND SOMETHING FULFILLING!**

Jack: Personal question guys. When did you realize you had a real problem?

Doug: When I started blacking out from drinking. I was a young, but I'd wake up and realize I wasn't going anywhere as a young man. This was pre-fire dept. It was shameful and not fun. I checked myself into rehab. I knew I had to change to be a contributing member of society. And it stuck. And I have paid it forward ever since. Additionally I also get to feel good about the brothers and sisters I help through the Phoenix Group.

Jason: I knew for a long time that I had a problem with drugs and alcohol. My moment of clarity-moment of honesty-came when confronted by my Captain and crew about my drinking and drug usage. At that moment I finally told the truth: That I had a problem and I needed help. This meant that I realized I was out of excuses, and I came face to face with the fact I could no longer lie or hide. My whole life was burning around me. I was defeated. I didn't know it then, but this was one of the greatest moments of my life. I was finally able to be free. This opened the door for me to accept help with all its consequences. That moment of surrender started me on a road of permanent sobriety and a useful and contented life.

These guys are giving back. If you see Blasi out there, and his smile and enthusiasm do not come to you, then ask him his story. And watch him bask in his survival.

Retirees are welcome to use their service too. Reach out to Phoenix for yourself or family. It's confidential. It's safe. Just seek help.

Contacts: Check the flyers here for Email, Phone numbers, Facebook, and Meetings.

IAFF: has an online substance abuse helpline if you want to begin your own survival journey outside of Miami-Dade County. Call them at 855-905-3670. It's for IAFF members and their families! Or log on to the IAFF website at this link directly to the IAFF Recovery Center. <https://www.iaffrecoverycenter.com/>

Big shout out to these guys for giving back.

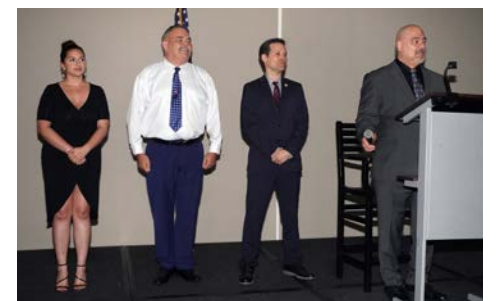
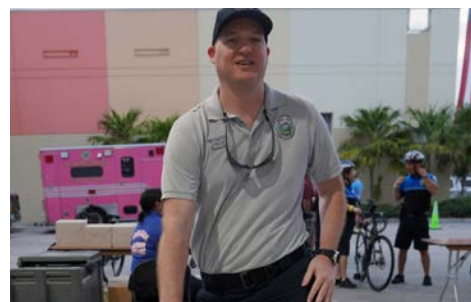
It's never too late to get healthy and feel good. The Phoenix Group, which is part of the BroThERhood Initiative, is not only alcohol and "drug" substances. It could be any substance, such as Adderall or Steroids, to name a couple. There are a wide array of substances you can be addicted to, and the Phoenix Group is eager to help you get back on track.

Want to contribute to Survivor Stories and tell your story in some manner that will help others? Then we would love to have you. I can even do it anonymously if you'd like. Or do you have an idea you think would resonate with the BroThERhood! Well that's super important too. Reach out to survivor stories at jumpline@local1403.org.





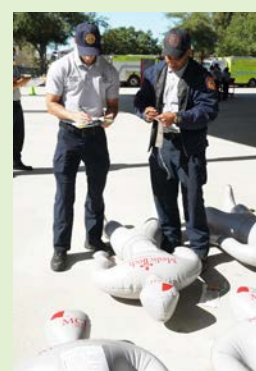
On the beat
with Local 1403
photographer
Eric Goodman







New Lieutenant MCI class and graduation.



Recruit class 149 orientation and sign up at the Union Hall.



2nd Annual District 9 Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee Kickball Tournament in Richmond Heights. FireBall wins 1st Place, finishing undefeated.

Team Captain is Jeannette Harrington.

2nd championship for FireBall in 2022 (they won Game of Life Tournament in Doral last April).



The final day and final scenario at the Marine Firefighter simulator located at MDR Fire Rescue



Chief Hook retirement. 30 years on the job. Recruit Class 68. Wore his first Metro-Dade uniform on his last shift (and it still fits).



EMS Division's Ralph Cordero conducts training on the Lucas 3 Device.



Photographer:
Eric Goodman



June Kegs and Eggs at the Union Hall. Biscuits & gravy egg casserole and candied bacon prepared by Errol Johnson, Marisol Vargas and Chris Hides. Retirees and active personnel join together in good fellowship to trade war stories.



Recruit class 149 ladder training.



Photographer:
Eric Goodman



Seven new (or almost new) CFOs complete the two-week curriculum. Chief Officer Development Program.



Chief ODP Class 01-2022. Started with a Traditions Run.



Capt Bill Gustin with new dispatcher class. He explained resources available in the field using videos and slides. Class was conducted at the old FAO.



Non-certified Class 150 began on June 21 at the Fire Rescue Training Center. They move to the Miami-Dade College Fire Academy on June 24 to begin minimum standards training.



Who are we? The answer to that question set me out on this journey, that to this date is still very much in its infancy. Before even getting to that answer, I suppose a bit of back story about who I am and how I went from a disinterested and somewhat disgusted member of this Union to a highly optimistic and proud servant of it.

I (Jason Suite) started out my career much like many others. I didn't necessarily have a dream of being a firefighter, but I fell in love with an idea that supplanted itself in my mind over previous misconceptions of this profession. As I went through Fire Academy and the necessary EMS training (prior to being hired), I was sold the idea that what I was pursuing was a family. A brother/sisterhood of individuals that chose a profession where the needs of the many superseded the needs of themselves. This idea stirred a fire in me which boiled with excitement the closer I got to my goal. THEN... I got hired.

It was the year 2008, the greatest and most powerful nation in the world was in a full-scale economic recession! No... CRASH. This financial unrest was not escaped by very many and certainly not by Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue. This was the year I was hired. From the moment we (Class 122) walked through the door with our newly assigned bunker gear, eager to learn and ready to serve, we were inundated with threats of our firing. We persevered, still eager to join this family. Things began to change rapidly. As my class 122 brothers/sisters (along with the ALMOST as great, class 123) entered the field, we began showing up to Union meetings to be updated on our status. To our surprise and dismay, it seemed we were the only ones showing up (slight bit of hyperbole, there were exceptions). There didn't really seem to be much concern from our new family about us being fired; in fact, the talk amongst many of my peers was somewhere along the lines of "they're (the county) just trying to get us to take pay cuts, and we aren't doing that". In hindsight, this was true, but it nevertheless began the souring of anything called "union". You see, some of my classmates had left other department/careers and many had families to care for. Seeing the worry on their faces while also witnessing the lack of action/concern from "brothers and sisters" was a bit devastating. Thankfully, everything worked out, but as the years went, I continued to hear mutterings about the Union, all of which were that of negative sentiment. The occasional union meeting that I would attend would typically devolve into diatribe about some topic that either impacted one or at most a very small group. By 2018 I had almost given up on this idea of "union", but I realized something. I realized I was giving up on something to which I never really took the time pay significant attention to or take action to improve. This is when things began to change.

The funny thing about negativity is that it communicates through bullhorns while positivity communicates through whispers. I realized that unfortunately the Union had fallen victim to that notion. Sure, there were the contract disputes, the possibility of leadership with personalized agendas, and failed grievances; but there were also many beautiful actions not being popularized at the same volume. Things like the ALA Fight for Air Climb, MDA Fill The Boot Drive, and the Annual Toy Drive were common knowledge



but what wasn't common knowledge was the fact that those events only took place because some of brothers and sister stepped up to volunteer and organize those functions. Then there were things like the PFA (Progressive Firefighter Association) Swim Camp that often went completely unnoticed by many. This rabbit hole of charitable actions only went deeper. Apparently, unbeknownst to me (and I'm sure, many), our Union had also separately incorporated Dade County Association of Firefighters Charities a registered 501C3. Through the capacity of this corporation our elected board had been supporting many local charitable institutions such as Camillus House, The Firehood Foundation, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, MDC Foster and Adoptive Parents, and the list goes on and on. Even more impactful, our elected board throughout the years; with the funds obtained by those of us that kindly donate to our charitable fund, had also helped DOZENS of our brothers and sisters that faced life altering situations. The revelation that this Union I grew to detest also had participated in charitable actions that mimicked some of the very same deeds I had done privately for many years, hit me like a truck. Had I become susceptible to the toxicity in a way that caused me to only look at part of the picture? Yes, I had. Had this toxicity also made me lose sight during my entire career? Yes, it had.

There I was in 2019, 12 years into my career, rethinking ALL of it. My thoughts covered the beginning half of my career in Battalion 3/5 (predominantly Rescue 2 A) to the latter half in Battalion 13 (now currently Engine 9 Tailboard B shift). It wasn't just through the (formal) Union where members had been doing good things, it had been occurring in the day to day, on every shift. I have so many memories of brothers and sisters voluntarily going beyond the scope of practice. From changing a tire of a stranger in the stifling Miami summer, cleaning an elderly individual that had soiled themselves, even replacing a broken lock and handle from having forced a door of a deaf woman that simply didn't hear the knock or phone (had no family locally). It was all there! The answer to the question "WHO ARE WE?" became clear. WE ARE A UNION of individuals that chose a profession where the needs of the many superseded the needs of ourselves.

The esteemed Captain Bill Gustin can be credited for saying "We aren't paid for what we do, we are paid for what we are willing to do." I'm probably misquoting that somehow (and it probably had a funny story before AND after), but at the time "willing to do" seemed simple. I thought this was in reference to us being willing to put our lives on the line. In retrospect, I believe he means more than that. "Willing to do" is not just about risking our lives, but also about our capacity as a Union to support the community in any way we can, as well as our individual capacity to step outside of the scope of practice when needed.

The Journey

As amazed as I was with this newfound understanding of who we were/are, I became a bit unsettled. I started asking; Can we do more? I won't continue to bore you with another long-winded soliloquy on how I got to my answer, but Yes! Yes, we can do more. I went to Local 1403 with an idea to formally organize and expand how we function as a charitable organization. As I said

before, the Union had already been doing great things. We have a long history of great deeds, but I believe that if we want to expand and impact our community more, things needed to change (slightly). This is where I stand today.

Charities Chairman

I am very grateful to have been appointed by our Union President William "Billy" McAllister and the Elected Board as Local 1403 Charities Chairman. This position comes with the responsibility of being the lead liaison to the Union and the community in all things Charities (Local 1403). I serve as a mechanism to help organize and enhance the way we conduct Charities business as to make the process more efficient. The first step was the drafting of a new Charities Policy. The policy created (approved by our Elected Board) lays out the pathway on how Dade County Association of Firefighters Charities will operate, the responsibilities of the Charities Committee, and a more effective documentation process to aid in transparency. This policy will continue to change and evolve over the next year until we have a final form that can be utilized for years to come. The responsibility of drafting the policy made sense but understanding what the Charities Chairman responsibilities were to be, was a bit more nuanced. This position requires my involvement in all Charity related tasks from our numerous T-shirt drives (Breast Cancer, Veterans, etc) to vetting donation request. I serve the Union, meaning I serve all of you! From the retirees to the newest member. Therefore, I am here to organize all ongoing Charities endeavors (The Fight for Air Climb, MDA Fill the Boot Drive, etc) as well as assist ANY MEMBER that is willing to create something great but needs the help of the Union.



Over the past year I have not only ran our traditional ongoing efforts but have also positioned myself to serve members such as Jeanette Harrington in helping her (through Local 1403) with the amazing Riding For A Cause: Autism Awareness Ride. I've also assisted Keisha Wilson with Local 1403 Toy drive, while expanding it to two different giveaway events for disenfranchised kids in our community. We (Charities Committee) are also working on several new projects that we will soon be bringing to all our members and the community. As the Charities Chairman, all ideas and request can be directed towards me. I will make time to help in the exploration of any ideas that expand Local 1403's presence in our community. Our members will no longer have to wonder who to contact for charities information or be alone in their efforts to impact the community.

Thank you to those that already make a difference! I am thoroughly excited to help you help others!

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The “MDFR Modified FLAT LOAD”

A new pre-connect for all rigs

By, MDFR Training Division

Our department adopted the triple layer hose load for our cross lays in 1979 and its effectiveness has never been re-evaluated or compared with other hose loads in over 40 years. Over the years, a lot has changed with structures we protect, firefighting tactics and the height of our apparatus cross lay hose beds. The ideal condition for deploying the triple layer load is when it can be pulled directly at a right angle to an apparatus, flaked out in a spacious front yard and advanced through a front door.

Accordingly, if the only city we protected was Pinecrest, there would be no need to explore alternative hose loads. The areas we protect have become more dense and urban over the years, requiring deployment of cross lays in less-than-ideal conditions. Narrow streets, parallel parked cars, fences and small front yards have become the norm. A crucial consideration when configuring any hose load is its ability to be stretched around corners and obstacles such as fence gates and the space between vehicle tires and pavement. Unfortunately, the triple layer load performs poorly under those conditions; requiring a firefighter to maneuver hose at every obstacle and change of direction. Accordingly, units in Operations have been evaluating a flat cross lay hose load that can be carried and deployed from the shoulder as well as dragged, similar to a triple layer when conditions permit.

A critical size up consideration is locating the entrance door to a fire building. For realism, consider the “Abuela’s quarters” attached to the rear of our Training Center house fire prop. Since 1979, opportunities to advance a hose line through a front door of a residence have decreased significantly. In many neighborhoods, homes that were originally designed and constructed to house one family now house two or more families in living units that cannot be reached from the front door. Similarly, consider how many garages have been renovated into one or more residential occupancies.

To appreciate the value of deploying hose from a firefighter’s shoulder or forearm, consider the flat load configuration of our 2 ½ in hose load. Our 2 ½ in. flat load deploys similarly to a “minuteman” load when it is rotated as it is pulled so that hose carried on the shoulder plays off freely from the top. This deployment technique enables our personnel to stretch 2 ½ in hose around a multitude of corners and obstacles.



There are apparatus in our department that have cross lay hose beds that are so high that cross lays have to be pulled while standing on a narrow side running board; not a safe technique for firefighters with an SCBA on their back. Accordingly, an important safety requirement of any alternative hose load is that it can be pulled easily by firefighters standing on the ground. The flat cross lay hose load meets this requirement because it is configured with long loops that can be reached from the ground. Our Fire Academy Recruits are taught the importance of stretching a “working length” along with the nozzle to the entrance of a building to facilitate a smooth advance; accordingly, the flat cross lay bundles the nozzle and working length while maintaining the ability to deploy the load

from either side of an apparatus.

The Training Division conducted dozens of side by side comparisons of the triple layer load vs. the flat load under a wide variety of conditions. Many of these comparisons were performed by Operations Units from throughout the County that were not familiar with the load and had never deployed it. The results of the evaluations were conclusive: The flat load out-performed the triple layer load; especially when deployed around corners, obstacles and on stairs.

Following are advantages of the flat load over the triple layer load:

No need to repeatedly roll hose to purge it of water and air.

Much faster and easier to load because hose is loaded one section at a time.

Frees up storage space on apparatus because the flat load can be easily disconnected at any section to extend a cross lay or connect to a wye; thus eliminating the need to carry extra bundles of extra 1 ¾ in hose.

The two cross lays can be combined; enabling two firefighters to rapidly stretch 350 ft. of 1 ¾ in. hose through courtyards, setbacks and trailer parks.

Because of its simplicity, the flat load is foolproof and loading and deployment is easy to teach and learn.

The Department has committed to transitioning to the cross lay flat load in approximately two months. This goal is achievable by changing the topic of Battalion drills, train the trainer training at the Training Center as well Training Division personnel training operations units in the field.



A FF reaching up to get the new MDFR pre-connect, safely from the ground. It’s configured with long loops that can be reached by a Firefighter standing on the street, eliminating the need to step up on a running board.



A crucial consideration when configuring any hose load is its ability to be stretched around corners and obstacles such as fence gates and the space between vehicle tires and pavement.



Front View of the 150’ Cross lay shoulder loaded



This new MDFR Modified Flat Load can be entirely carried and deployed from the shoulder when the point of entry is at the back of a home or business and obstacles are encountered. It can also be dragged, similar to a triple layer when conditions permit.



The MDFR Modified Flat Load bundles the nozzle and working length so the FF always ends up at the entry point, even the backdoor, with a 50’ working length.



Shouldering the MDFR Modified Flat Load provides the ability for a single person to stretch upstairs while flaking off the top from the shoulder.





Brotherhood as defined by Merriam-Webster; feelings of friendship, support, and understanding between people: a group or organization of people who have the same interests, jobs, etc. In the fire service, we know it means so much more. Brotherhood means that we are there for one another. It means we have each other's backs. It means no matter how different we are, or how much we disagree, that when it comes right down to it, we will go through hell and sacrifice ourselves for each other.

Perhaps you have seen reference to the BrotHERhood Initiative (station posters). What is that? What do they do? You've probably asked those questions. The committee was established in 2016 by Local 1403 with a purpose simply put, we are here for you (both active and retired members). To show that this is not just a group of guys, the group capitalized the "HER" in BrotHERhood. The men and women of MDFR are equals and we are both entrenched in this fire family together.

Part of what we're here for is camaraderie, to bring us together for some social bonding. We have been using CBE's

(camaraderie building events) to promote the BrotHERhood and giving us time to bond with the guys and gals we don't get to see all the time plus we meet others that we may have not met yet. These CBE's are a great time and we look forward to seeing you at them.

One of our missions is to provide a bridge to those in need by getting them the help they might need. We have seen situations where a brother or sister becomes ill or injured and they are unable to complete simple tasks at home or for their family, this ends up causing additional undue stress to them and their family. We have learned the effects that stress has on us and our goal is to help reduce it whenever possible. The BrotHERhood Initiative helps by coordinating and or assisting with what that brother/sister and their family may need, from mowing the grass to taking the kids to school, from minor house repairs to building ramps and making the home wheelchair accessible. The coordination alleviates them from that stress and helps them concentrate on their recovery.

Another area we are here to help with is substance abuse and suicide prevention. While none of us are counselors or can directly deal with these issues, we are able to get the member to the help they need. We don't want to hear of one of our members, active or retired, committing suicide or dying from substance use. If you are dealing with depression, PTSD, substance abuse or any other inner demon or know a brother or sister who is, please reach out to us so that we can assist in getting them the help they need and deserve. We assure you that confidentiality is of the utmost importance. This is a promise that we all make to you and one that we cannot breach.

If you are hesitant to ask for help with anything or think that it's a sign of weakness, know that it is the farthest thing from being weak. It takes a very strong individual to admit when they cannot do something on their own. If for no other reason than to alleviate the stress it puts on your family, reach out to us. If you think that whatever issue you have is far above anything we can handle, test us. We are here for you. You can contact us at Brotherhood@local1403.org. Sound the alarm, we'll answer the call.

Lastly, if you are interested in helping out your fellow firefighters and would like to join the BrotHERhood Initiative please email us at Brotherhood@local1403.org. We are always looking for people to help us by volunteering to help our brothers and sisters in need. If you have a trade or skill or just want to lend a hand please email us so we can add you to our list of helpers. The more people we have on our list of resources the better the chances are we can get the help to the member in need sooner. Remember, you could be the one in need at any time.

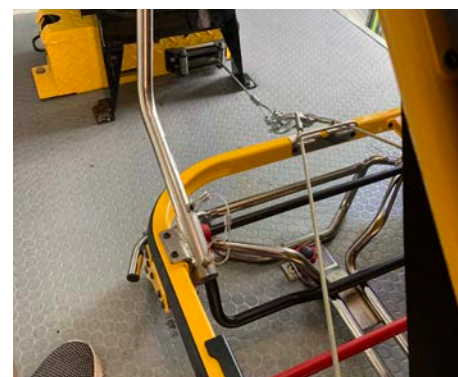
NEED HELP OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?

CONTACT US
brotherhood@local1403.org



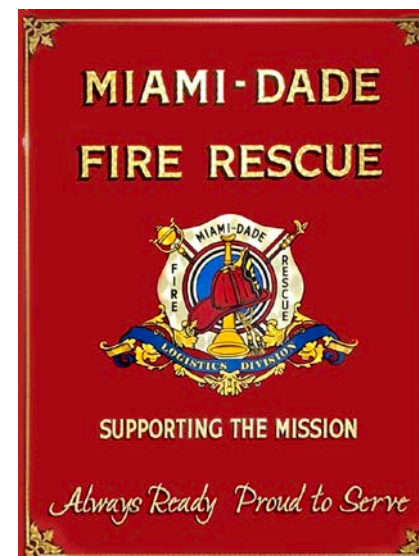
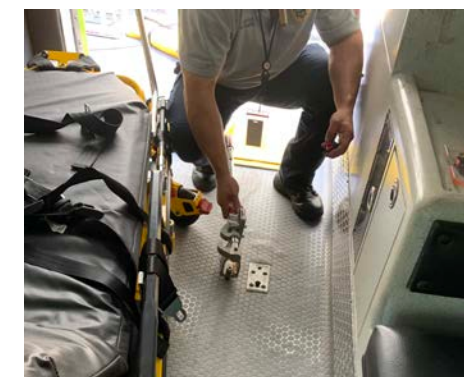
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| DEPRESSION | CARDIAC ARRESTS |
| RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS | VEHICLE ENTRAPMENTS |
| ANGER/ AGITATION | OVERDOSES |
| MOOD SWINGS | DROWNINGS |
| CHANGE IN ACTIVITY | TRAUMA/ SHOOTINGS |
| HOPELESSNESS | VEHICLE ACCIDENTS |
| WITHDRAWAL | CAR IN A CANAL |
| ANXIETY | SIDS |
| SUICIDE | HANGINGS/ SUICIDES |
| SUBSTANCE ABUSE | CHILD ABUSE |
| ALCOHOL ABUSE | CHILD INJURIES |
| PTSD | BURN VICTIMS |
| IRRITABILITY | |

The BrotHERhood Initiative



New MDFR Bariatric Rescue.

Those calls are rare but manpower intensive. This enhanced new rig will allow the safe transport and treatment of patients, while keeping the back breaking work to a minimum. All components are removable and the rig doubles as a mass patient mover.



Logistics and Facilities have created a system to keep all spare operations rigs charged while at the Support Office.





All about volunteering. 27 years of just trying to give back is how Keisha Wilson, Driver at Foam 25 currently, describes it. This career has helped me be able to help 24/7. It's really all about volunteering.

It all started on calls. Doing what she could to mend broken hearts on calls. Within a few years she was driving in Battalion 5 and noticed that her daily calls proved the need was there. As she grew into it she took her kids along, off duty, to many of these functions so their hearts and eyes were opened to the need right under our noses in Miami-Dade County. She's logged many years helping such as with her church passing out goods to the homeless. There were many times she worked with Karen Joseph and the holiday toy drive. Maria Ortiz and the work that she does internationally was rewarding. Mario Gonzalez with His House was a place that Keisha spent much time. She says working with Shamele Jenkins helping with foster and adoptive kids was a great experience.

Even recently, without any compensation for their efforts, she and Laura Graves from the Fire Alarm Office said to themselves let's just go show up and help at the Chaplin Towers Collapse. They felt there were many crews working their tails off so there must be something they can do. And she thought who doesn't want a little smile and a little help while you're working hard at a Search and Rescue site, praying you'll get to return someone's loved one to them.

She says one of the more memorable and rewarding things was when she was helping with the Progressive Firefighter Association's community swim training. They'd perform it at MFDR HQ pool. There was a boy they had for nearly 3 years that wasn't making the progress they'd hoped. He wasn't a very verbal young man, but they believed in him. On this day the water was entered reluctantly in the shallow end. As always he held onto the sides with a tight grip. That was where the story typically ended. And then one day it happened! Keisha and other instructors said we'll swim with you. He shimmied over to the side and waited. They built him up, blew the whistle and away he went! After almost 3 years this young man took off and swam the long way across the pool. She said the whole team cheered and some even cried. It was a wonderful day. It's what it's all about.

Since her reputation for helping is out there she says so many people reach out because they want in. She is still often asked, "Do you need help". The answer is yes! Keep reaching out! Keep helping! A recommendation she has is this- to simply look for local shelter. Women, men, families, abused women and men, any of them. Reach out to them and ask what they need. There are so many needs. Be a big sister or big brother to kids in the shelters. Or go help with homework. Often she finds it's just people that are down and out just wanting someone to spend time with. Be that one chance to simply be the springboard that helps a person see the light and get back on their feet or help bring a smile to a child's face.

Editor's note: We'll have a piece in each edition about the awesome work our people are doing to give back. Got an idea for union members giving back? Are you doing something awesome, that may just compel someone else to join you? Please send it on over. Help us inspire the troops and remind everyone of the great work you are doing! We need to see it! We'd love to see it! jumpline@local1403.org

Wildfire0582@yahoo.com



When I took over as the new President of the Retirees, my first goal was to improve communications with our guys and gals who, after working for 25 to 30 years or more, leave their/our fire department family and move away to places as far away as Seattle, WA. It bothered me that brothers and sisters who I worked with for over 30 years just faded away, not to be heard from again. So, I created an E mail list, with help from the Local, to send out updates and info that I could relay to as many members that I could reach. That worked a little bit but quite frankly, it was very time consuming and difficult and many of our old farts don't read E mails any more. Hell, there's many who can't/won't use a computer or phone to read them. I even found several who don't HAVE a cell phone! I painstakingly called as many retirees that I could to update their E mails and phone numbers. (There's almost 1000) Accordingly, the Local and President McCallister have assured me that there will soon be a one-click E mail list to all retirees that I, or any future Retired President, will have administrative privileges to use. That will be a huge improvement!

I have steadfastly tried to encourage our retirees to use our Facebook Page where they can stay informed on events, happenings, passings and Local updates. We have over 580 members on our Facebook page already. It is an easy way to stay in touch with old partners and work buddies. I know many are opposed to Facebook or think it's too hard to use but it's not! It's quite easy and you don't need to ever post anything but are able to read and keep up with our FD family! We have also used it to help find out several of our former firefighters who needed some help in hard times.

Our Facebook Page is Retired Metro Dade Firefighters.

If you don't think you can do it, grab one of the grand kids

and have them help you sign up and stay in touch!!

Other news:

The Retired Metro Dade Firefighters Reunion will once again be in Dahlonaga, GA Sept 30 thru Oct 2. Hope our many newly retired FF's will attend! Contact our organizers Jeffery and Jennifer Burns for information. It will also be posted on our Facebook Page.

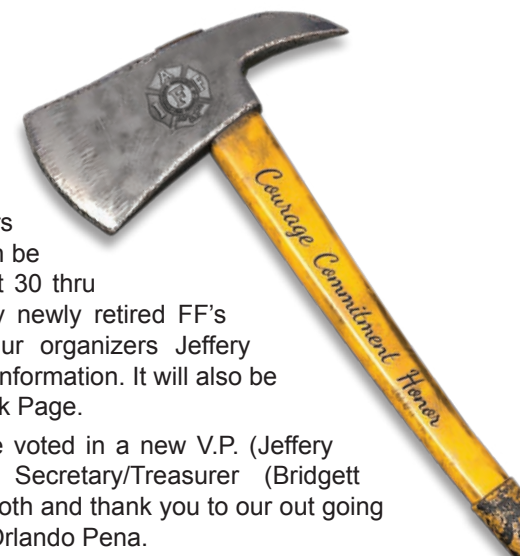
At our last event, we voted in a new V.P. (Jeffery Burns) and a new Secretary/Treasurer (Bridgett Keating). Congrats to both and thank you to our out going officers, Al Griffin and Orlando Pena.

We have 3 different retired group gatherings in south Fla that I am aware of. I host a lunch at Twin Peaks Restaurant in Pembroke Pines on the first Wednesday of every month at 12 PM. Tom Chochoon hosts a lunch at Black Point Marina occasionally, and the guys and gals meet in Stuart at Duffy's around 4 PM on Tuesdays. Go on Facebook or get a hold of me for more information.

The U.S. / Canadian Firefighters group will be hosting their 58th annual golf tournament on Sept 18-21 in Buffalo, NY. Contact me for any questions.

I am pleased that the Local is reinstituting the Jump Line and salute Jack Swerdlhoff for taking on the editors role!

Stay safe, Stay well!



Upcoming Calendar

2022 L-1403 Calendar

July:

26: Membership Meeting – 12pm

August:

5: Class 149 Graduation

8: FF Wayne Mitchell LODD (2003)

8 – 12: IAFF Convention (Ottawa, Canada)

30: Membership Meeting – 8pm

September:

5: Labor Day

11: Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks (2001)

11: LT Dewey Henry LODD (1994)

26: 1403 Chartered (1961)

27: Membership Meeting/Election

Nominations – 12pm

9/30 – 10/2: Retiree Reunion Dahlonaga

October:

10: Columbus Day

14: 6th Annual Casino Night & Poker Tournament

25: Membership Meeting – 8pm

28: 1403 Election Ballots mailed

28: National 1st Responders Day

31: Halloween

November:

11: Veteran's Day

18: 1403 Election Ballots Counted

24: Thanksgiving

25: Black Friday

29: Membership Meeting – 12pm (November Stache Contest)

December:

25: Christmas

31: New Year's Eve



The intent of this column is to provide the membership with information about our wages, benefits and work conditions. It will be a potpourri of information, thoughts and occasional musings about organized labor and unions.

Fire Watch: There always seems to be questions about Firewatch Rates, so here is a quick breakdown:

Regular Firewatch is in accordance with Dade County IO 7-33 (referenced in CBA Art 13.2):

- Firefighters - \$53/hr
- Lieutenant - \$55/hr
- Captain - \$57/hr
- Chief Fire Officer - \$59/hr

Per CBA Art 32.5, for events at hard Rock Stadium or Homestead Motor Speedway with an attendance of 40,000 or more, and additional \$3/hr will be paid.

The following events at Hard Rock Stadium will be compensated at a Fire Watch rate of \$79/hr for firefighters and \$81/hr for CFOs:

- NFL: AFC Championship Game, Superbowl, Pro-Bowl
- MLB: NLCS, World Series, All Star Games, World Baseball Classic
- College Football: National Championship, National Playoff, Bowl Game
- Music Concert: Rolling Loud
- Fire Watch at Marlins Park is paid at your Overtime rate.

Bids: When are the next bids coming out?

Per Article 14.1, "all vacancies will be bid twice a year and will be advertised on the first B-shift Monday at the start of a pay period in August and February of each year. Closing dates will be two (2) weeks after vacancies are advertised. All awarded bids will be implemented ten (10) weeks after the vacancies are advertised."

- 8/22/22 – Position Vacancy Announcement published
- 9/4/22 – Bids Close
- 10/31/22 – Bids implemented

Degree Pay (Associates or higher): Another common question is what degrees are eligible for the degree pay.

For firefighting personnel, CBA Art 17.3 specifies which

degrees are eligible for a one-step pay increase. Eligible degrees are:

- Fire Science Technology,
- Emergency Medical Services,
- Fire Administration,
- Public Administration,
- Emergency Services Management,
- Disaster Preparedness,
- Business Administration,
- Healthcare Administration,
- Biology/Biological Sciences,
- Nursing

For dispatchers, CBA Art 50.13 specifies which degrees are eligible for a one-step pay increase. Eligible degrees are:

- Emergency Management
- Emergency Medical Services
- Computer Science

First Responder Checks:

On March 31, 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that First Responders would receive a \$1,000 bonus check. This is the second consecutive year that we will receive the bonuses. The bonuses will be in the state's 2022 – 2023 budget which begins on July 1st. We have not received an exact timeline for when the checks will be distributed, but it is expected that they will be delivered later this summer.

Remaining pay increases in the 2020 – 2023 CBA:

The following pay increases will occur prior to September 30, 2023 when the current CBA expires.

- Effective the first pay period of October 2022, employees shall receive a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of three percent (3%)
- Effective April 1, 2023, the hazardous duty pay supplement for firefighting personnel will increase from \$150 to \$175.
- Effective April 1, 2023, the competency pay supplement for Dispatchers will be increased from 15% to 16%.

Holidays:

With the recent addition of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, members are now eligible for (13) County Holidays, (1) twelve hour Birthday Holiday and (3) twelve hour Floating Holidays. The County Holidays are:

- New Year's Day
- President's Day
- MLK Day
- Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (added 2022)
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth Day (added 2021)

- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Black Friday (day after Thanksgiving)
- Christmas Day

2023 – 2026 CBA:

The current CBA expires on September 30, 2023. The 2023 – 2026 CBA will begin on October 1, 2023. Per CBA Art 45.6, we are contractually obligated to meet with the County no later than May 1, 2023, to exchange first drafts of written proposals for the next contract. Later this fall we will begin accepting suggestions/input for the 2023 – 2026 CBA.

by Bill Lyster, Executive Board



letter again, my thoughts went back to when I was first hired. I looked forward to seeing the latest edition in my mailbox or at the firehouse.

One section I don't recall being included in every edition was a cooking corner. There was an occasional recipe just not a regular cooking column. Perhaps this will inspire all our firehouse culinary experts to put share their experiences in the kitchen.

Among our membership is a healthy dose of skilled amateur (and even some professional) chefs. Then there are those who struggle with pots and pans nor do they know the difference between a whisk and a spatula.

Recruits hear hundreds of firehouse sayings and admonitions in their training. No doubt one of them is, "learn to cook one dish and learn to cook it well."

We have all heard a few others such as "feed'em late and feed'em a lot." Like a stray dog or cat that finds their way to a human's backyard, we don't always choose the time of the dinner bell. The time chooses us. We have all sat down to plates of cold food way past any reasonable dinner hour. Late feeding times have many things in common. One that stands out is the sound of those later mealtimes.

The typical firehouse dinner table chatter is replaced by the sounds of serving spoons scooping in a pot, the tink-tink of forks hitting plates, a burp here a fart there, maybe a pass the salt and pepper please, chairs sliding on the floor as mem-



Closing Thoughts:

- If you are not receiving the Local's Emails (which are sent via Mailchimp) please email **secretary@local1403.org** and ask to be included in our distribution list.
- If you are not receiving the Local's text messages, please log into our website (<https://local1403.org>) and sign up to receive them.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like to have answered in a future edition of the Jumpline, please email them to secretary@local1403.org. Thanks for the time and until next time – Stay Safe, Stay Informed and Stay Involved!

Cooking Corner

bers slip to the kitchen for a second helping. A firehouse cook knows they did it right when nobody talks. Either that or midnight is approaching and it's the first meal anybody has had since maybe lunch.

With this inaugural kitchen segment of the Firehouse Kitchen, let's start slow and easy with a dessert. Who doesn't love dessert? And who doesn't love an easy dessert? This dessert is just about as easy as a gallon of Blue Bunny with a squeeze bottle of fudge topping. I bore you with the recipe. It's on the back of EVERY bottle of Nellie & Joe's Key West Lime Juice which is available at your local green logo grocer. Be sure and use the 9" pie crust. If you can find them, double the recipe and use the 12" pie crust.

This recipe calls for egg yolks only. If you don't know how to separate yolks from whites, ask the crossfit-special-diet-keto-south-beach-egg-white-omelet-eating member to show you. Kitty keepers should love this recipe. The wasted egg whites can be eaten by that person outed two sentences before this one.

Or, better yet. If you're all bougie and know how to whip up a meringue topping, put those egg whites to good use. Just make sure there are no bits of yolk are in the whites or your meringue will not do what meringue is supposed to do. You'll need to look up your own recipe for meringue. Otherwise, a can of Reddi-Whip works great. Or go old school with a tub of Cool Whip.

Remember, it isn't always about the quality of the meal preparation. It is about breaking bread with your brotHERs. It is about sharing stories and experiences. I have probably learned more about the fire service right at the dinner table than I learned in fire academy.

"You learn a lot about someone when you share a meal together." --Anthony Bourdain

Let's see what you can do in the kitchen.

Stay safe brotHERs.





This is a foundation created by Local 1403 to care for our members that voluntarily sacrifice their physical and mental well-being for others. The ultimate goal was to set up a fund to make sure our members get the help they need in a moment's notice with never having to worry about the cost and if they are covered or not. We exist to make sure your call for help never goes unanswered. When you or a fellow brother or sister is struggling or in crisis, you will have access to a number that is answered 24/7 and completely confidential. The number above will have forwarding to MDRF Mental Health Divisions, to third party institutions with no affiliation to the union or MDRF, and to Command Counselling who the union has teamed up with to make sure you connect with the best clinicians within 24 hours of calling.

This was an idea that began in early 2020 before the beginning of Covid and the incident in surfside. Thankfully, the conversation and idea was already in the works, as the pandemic and surfside collapse showed how important this endeavor was. Just weeks after IAFF Peer Support teams were sent home from the Surfside site and visiting stations, we started working with Command Counselling to set up breakfast and workshops to give support to those affected. Even with these actions, we became aware of our inadequacies in meeting the needs of our members. Behind the scenes, work was being done to set up the Foundation so we could start accepting donations and get the assets in place so every one of you could get the necessary



help if it were ever needed. The creation of this foundation has proven to be a daunting task as there are no models to follow that meet the specific needs of our members. We are only at the beginning, and our foundation will only continue to evolve.

As we continue to build the First Responder Resiliency Foundation, our plan is to build on proactive strategies for the mind and body. Some of you have seen these ideas firsthand in the events we have begun hosting in 2022. We are implementing a monthly workout for all levels of fitness throughout Miami Dade County, and we are constantly looking for ideas on how to encourage better physical fitness. Also hosted our first annual Mental Health and Wellness Fair with two incredible speakers, Jason Patton of Fire Department Chronicles and City of Rivera Beach Fire and Kyle Carpenter, a Medal of Honor Recipient.

The only way this Foundation can continue to grow is with your involvement. Be proactive and join one of our monthly workouts. Come to one of the fun events we host or next year's annual Mental Health and Wellness Fair to hear from an incredible speaker and meet a few of our support teams. But also, do not hesitate to float some innovative ideas we have not thought of. We have a lot of bright minds in this fire department, and we would love to hear from you. We look forward to seeing all of you!

Resiliency@Local1403.org
786-551-4911

Ignite Resiliency Health & Wellness Fair



ERIC GOODMAN
Photographer
Local 1403



By John O'Brien, Executive Board

Q&A with Captain Bill Gustin, an astounding 28 years as Station Captain at 2

Units: Engine 2, Rescue 2, Rescue 202, Battalion 5
Nicknamed: The Deuce
2016 Call Volume: Engine 2, 4891 runs

Station 2, affectionately known as "the Deuce," arguably sits atop the hill of MDRF's legend and lore. During each probationary period, many newly minted rookies are assigned to Station 2 so that they may hone their craft, learning from world renowned fire officers and crews. The new Station 2, located at 6460 NW 27th Ave, was opened on March 5th, 2013, on the same property that housed Station 2 in the 1970s.

Notable Calls: The riots of 1968, the 1980 McDuffie Riots and Northern Tire Co. warehouse fire, 4-alarm warehouse fire of 2012.

1. You were initially hired by a department outside of Chicago. Being that your father retired as a Chicago firefighter after 33 years, how did you wind up in Miami with MDRF? I followed a girl, and took MDRF temporarily until Chicago opened up. I had already completed the academy after Chicago offered me a position and I chose to stay with Dade. Chicago was undergoing a pendulum swing and in my eyes that made MDRF a great place to fight fire. I got on in 1978 and made my way to battalion 5 in 1979 as relief and never looked back.

2. Probationary firefighters and rookies often put in their time at Station 2. Model Cities is widely regarded as a breeding ground for training, teaching, and building quality firefighters. What advice do you wish you could give to every probationary firefighter and rookie, both present and future? Have your head and your heart in the job. You cannot dabble in the fire service. You need to commit to being a lifelong student of the fire service. Stay physically fit and mentally tough. Study building construction. Stay current on suppression systems. Know the properties of hazardous materials and know how to deal with them. Build upon that working knowledge.

3. Our job is centered around variables. How have you remained a constant for so many years? What continues to drive you and motivate you? I know that my days are numbered for donning gear and responding to fires. I'll stay on so long as I'm physically and mentally capable. This is the greatest job in the world with

one of the greatest departments in the world. I'll never take that for granted. I'm motivated by working with the finest firefighters and company officers in the world out of Station 2. I'll never stop learning on this job and take each day as an opportunity to become a better firefighter. Mistakes included.



4. Cubs or Sox?
I have no interest in sports. My sport is the Fire Service...





I-R-10 SOCIAL MEDIA/DIGITAL MEDIA POLICY

If on duty please consider MDRF Media policies relating to any photos you submit to the Jumpline. In a nutshell, don't take and/or use on scene photos without permission from MDRF Media and Public Relations.

Here at the *Jumpline*, we are working closely with MDRF PIO to ensure that our product is compliant with our department policies.

Please read the policies in full before you consider submitting photos or information that could be in conflict. Some excerpts are below.

I-R-10 SOCIAL MEDIA/DIGITAL MEDIA POLICY

While on-duty, **ALL** digital images taken with or without approval of a supervisor or



the Media & Public Relations OIC or designee are property of Miami-Dade County and are subject to public record under Chapter 119 of the Florida Statute

Digital images taken during incidents are to be sent only to the Media & Public Relations Bureau for proper vetting and dissemination. The Media & Public Relations Bureau reserves the right to utilize the images as they see fit for the purpose of media use, education, training, community engagement, and public relations. See Section VIII for instructions on how to submit digital images taken during incidents.

Photos may be submitted to MDRF PIO via iPhone or android Dropbox (directions in the policy). Email at mdfrpio@miamidade.gov, or SUBMIT VIA WHATSAPP digital images to 786-516-5362.

Farewell, Bianca-Rossato Wolfe

We have some bittersweet news for our Local 1403 family. After more than 6 years working with us, Bianca Rossato-Wolfe accepted a new opportunity that she just couldn't pass up. She wanted to leave quietly because, while her heart was here, her ambitions were calling her to move on to bigger challenges. Her shoes are big ones to fill and saying that she will be missed is the understatement of the year.

For those of you that may not have known Bianca, she was hired as the Local 1403 Executive Coordinator in May 2016. Bianca - or just B as many of us call her - was not only a great asset to this Local but really was the lifeblood of our event coordination and community affairs. Whether it was doing the work of the membership, planning special events with those renting the event space, or answering calls with a smile, even when she was swamped with work or long after



everyone went home for the day, Bianca always stepped up to the task. It is hard to put into words the impact she's had on each of our lives here in the office and the lives of our members. Her work ethic and kindness has surpassed anything we could have expected. Her job title was Executive Coordinator but what she did was so much more than that. She never once complained, but always seemed to happily get even through the most challenging days with a smile. Having Bianca on this team and in the building was a great morale builder. Her positivity was contagious amongst the Local 1403's team.

Bianca Rossato-Wolfe, we want to say thank you for all you did for Local 1403. We wish you all the luck in your future endeavors and will forever be grateful for your loyalty and grace.



PROGRESSIVE FF ASSN. SUMMER SWIM PROGRAM

Program teaches inner city kids ages 6-16 how to swim. Goal is to prevent accidental drowning.



Famed Palmetto Bay seafood restaurant tiki area goes up in flames July 4th night



June 21 fire at MIA. Foam units operate as crews help evacuate passengers



Life is a long journey. If you need help on your journey then sound the alarm!

Many fine MDRF people are eager help you find a way to thrive!

First Responder Resiliency Foundation

786-551-4911

We exist to make sure your call for help never goes unanswered. When you or a fellow brother or sister is struggling or in crisis, you will have access to a number that is answered 24/7 and completely confidential. The number above will have forwarding to MDRF Mental Health Divisions, to third party institutions with no affiliation to the union or MDRF, and to Command Counselling who the union has teamed up with to make sure you connect with the best clinicians within 24 hours of calling.

MDRF Chaplaincy

The MDRF Chaplaincy Program has evolved from a highly respected ceremonial position to an intrinsic component of the Departments emotional, psychological and spiritual wellness programs.

The MDRF Chaplain list is located in MDRF intranet under the MDRF Employee Support Office section.

BrotHERhood

Need help or know someone that does?

brotherhood@local1403.org

Local 1403's Phoenix Group

Any kind of substance abuse. Confidential. Meets every week! See flyers next to this text.

phoenixgroup@local1403.org

Local 1403 Benefits Officer Claudine Buzzo

If you are struggling with substance abuse and you just don't know where to turn, I am the person who can help you anonymously. I help you utilize article 19.9 which states if you come to me voluntarily, I can get your time covered should you need to go to a 30-day treatment facility. I am also on the I.A.F.F Peer support team and am here even if it is just to talk.

954-601-7235

IAFF Recovery Center

855-631-7318

Substance abuse, PTSD, and other co-occurring behavioral issues. Treatment available for all IAFF members.

Miami-Dade County Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Confidential. Call to schedule or emergency walk ins are accepted.

305-375-3293



Alcohol/Substance Abuse Support Meetings Phoenix Group/BrotHERhood Initiative



Brothers and Sisters, if you or a fellow firefighter you know is struggling with alcohol and/or substance abuse issues, we can help. We are the Phoenix Group of The BrotHERhood Initiative and we meet on **Thursdays, 0930 to 1130**, at The Springs Room, located at 38 Curtiss Parkway, Miami Springs, Florida 33166 (entrance at rear of building).

We invite all those that may be struggling to come by and discover how we can help. We have no ranks, department, or religious affiliations. All discussions are fully confidential.

The Phoenix Group is a gathering of men and women of the Fire Service who find hope and solidarity through honest discussions and self-reflection.



For More Information, Email:

phoenixgroup@local1403.org Facebook @PhoenixGroupFirefighters

or call:

FRED (305) 319-0607 ALEX (305) 322-7088
JASON (954) 529-6170 DOUG (786) 514-4628
ERIC (305) 310-6311

Alcohol & Substance Abuse Support Meetings
Thursdays 0930 to 1130 Location: The Springs Room
38 Curtiss Parkway
Miami Springs, FL 33166
(Entrance at rear of building)

Contact Information:
phoenixgroup@Local1403.org
Facebook:
@PhoenixGroupFirefighters

Alex: 305-322-7088 Doug: 786-514-4628
Fred: 305-319-0607 Jason: 954-529-6170 Eric: 305-310-6311

by Rafael Carrillo
Assistant to the President



Seldom are the times where conditions permit one to capitalize on a meaningful and rewarding opportunity. Such an opportunity occurred the day President McAllister asked me to contribute, for the benefit of our membership, in matters related to the service we deliver to our community. I was fortunate enough to begin working with

President McAllister at a time when circumstances favored a bold, new direction: our local had just elected a new president, and our department had promoted new leadership at the top. With these sweeping changes came the distinct impression of a clean slate both at the operations level and at our local. Preconceived ideas and predetermined goals would be subject to closer examination in a productive dialogue with leadership. New and ongoing challenges would be tackled expeditiously and approached with pragmatism and diligence. Now, as I look back at the past two years, I can say with confidence that these efforts have proved fruitful, even with the added challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic. Of the numerous accomplishments the local has achieved under President McAllister's leadership, perhaps the one I am most personally proud of working towards is the restoration of our Dive Rescue Program. This achievement marks a major step towards meeting the needs of our community. In addition, new Dive Rescue Operational measures place an even greater emphasis on diver safety.

Our south-end operations challenges are another topic of continuous planning and discussion. New services, water supply concerns, as well as the rapid pace of new construction constitute just a few pieces of this complex mosaic. Our local is actively monitoring the needs of this expanding territory and working towards finding practical and timely solutions to these challenges. In addition, our local has also provided assistance to MDRF in rolling out the Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) program. Integrating both telemedicine and community paramedicine models, ET3 provides a fiscally viable and effective entry point into the healthcare system and emergency response services. This is particularly true for members of the community who lack the means or ability to visit a primary care physician, or drive themselves to a hospital for treatment.

In closing, matters related to service delivery are moving forward at a pace which I personally consider exceptional. I look forward to continuing my work with our local and with President McAllister to ensure that we meaningfully capitalize on this unique momentum. Our local 1403's commitment to meeting present challenges with resolve, adaptability, and dedication better prepares us for those obstacles which lie ahead.

Rafael Carrillo



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Random thoughts from Fire Alarm and about giving back

Welcome back Jumpline

I'm Laura Graves also known as LG to my peers. I am one of the senior dispatchers on the department currently number 4. I have dedicated 25 years of my life proudly to the fire service as a Fire Rescue Dispatcher. I'm an Acting Supervisor, Lead Worker, Certified Training Officer, trainer for Officer Development Program, a member of the Technical Emergency Response Team (TERT), Union Steward for dispatchers, active member with the Progressive Firefighters Association, Local 1403 and the Dade County Firefighters Benevolent Association. The job of a fire dispatcher is often challenging, fast paced and no 2 days are ever alike. Being a part of his department has made me more of a giving person than a receiving individual.

I remember when I joined the department 25 years ago the older dispatchers Lynn Cole, Deborah Jackson, Margaret Maggiore, Arleen Nemeth, Ellen Duran, and a couple others used to knit and crochet blankets all the time for the kids in children's hospitals, the elderly in ALFs, anyone pregnant and blankets, scarves and hats for new dispatchers.

I remember Deborah Jackson trying for almost a year trying to teach me how to crochet and I swear I must have had a roadblock in my brain to not learn how to do it to this day I have a permanent dent in my finger. Probably from holding



on to that needle so darn tight. Lol. But unknown to me, it would be the start of, not a job, but a lifetime career of constant giving back.

Outside of my daily life as a mom of 3 and dedicating my time to sporting events with my boys or cheer leading and dance with my daughter I've come to realize that my co-workers have become just as much another family. Besides learning that some of my high school classmates were also on department and regaining those friendships, I've gained so many brothers and sisters and work moms over the years.

Working as a dispatcher is rewarding but giving back to the community is even better. I love doing charity work and I'm also an adrenaline junkie! So, one day My girlfriend Wanda who hosts charity golf tournaments presented the opportunity for me to jump out of an airplane for her birthday, and for a cure, and well I jumped! I've bungee jumped for a cure, I've participated in multiple golf tournaments like the Trayvon Martin Foundation, Artis Jack Hall Classic, Wounded Warriors, and multiple runs here in Miami, California and Jamaica. And let's not forget Cycle fest with Jeanette Harrington. I've had the pleasure of working with Karen Joseph and Keisha Wilson with the departments toy drive called Toys for Tots. This was supposed to have been a couple of days helping to sort toys and package them to distribute to families but turned in to me becoming the North End Elf. But I love minute of it because there's nothing like a child's smile!

So last year June 2021 we had an awful tragedy with the collapse of the Chaplain Towers. I was off duty and on vacation, but I got a phone call from Keisha Wilson asking if I will go with her to assist with the Benevolent Canteen Van to help feed the workers on site. I didn't think twice to go help. I jumped up, put on some jeans and a fire department T-shirt grabbed a cup of coffee and was on my way. This was truly unforgettable for me watching it, seeing it firsthand and experiencing it with my coworkers in the Fire Alarm Office. After witnessing this I decided and more so felt compelled to become a peer supporter so over the past couple of months I've been taking peer support classes so I can become a formal member of CISM. I hope that someone out there, may it be one of my coworkers, my kids or any of the kids that I have mentored from different programs, would have it in their hearts 1 day to do the same and give back.

I can go on and on about all the joyous charity work that I've been lucky to have assisted in over the years.

There are so many opportunities, but what I would love to do is encourage others to come out and do the same.

I would like to thank Jumpline for giving me this opportunity to express life, and share some of my dispatch experiences, and especially the amazing chances to be involved in charity work.

7:15 Dade County

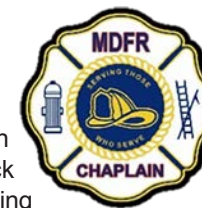


A Brief Chaplaincy History - From the Continental Army to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue.

The historical relevance and tradition of Chaplaincy in our country traces its roots to the military all the way back to the Colonial army led by George Washington. According to Retired Col. John W. Brinsfield, US Army Chaplain Corps historian, Washington wanted [chaplains] to be religious leaders.... But the chaplains were also to visit the wounded, take care of the dead, write letters home for soldiers, who couldn't write, give discourses of a patriotic nature to keep the soldiers from deserting. The chaplain was a very important link between the commander and the troops. It is obvious that our first President placed great importance on Chaplaincy as it pertained to the emotional, spiritual, and overall well-being and morale of his troops. Washington's view was that the only victorious army was going to be, at least, an ethical army if not a religious army... Washington thought the only way he could win was with a righteous army, because the odds were so overwhelming against him. The Chaplaincy core is the second oldest Military Core second only to the infantry. The election of the Rev. William Linn as Chaplain of the House of Representatives on May 1, 1789, continued the tradition established by the Continental Congresses of each day's proceedings opening with a prayer by a chaplain. In an interesting little known link between our first President, and the Fire Services, in 1775, George Washington paid for the first pumping engine in Fairfax County Virginia.

Within the Fire Service, the history and tradition of Chaplaincy is undeniable. The first occurrence on record is believed to have taken place in 1854, in the London Fire Brigade. With the help of the London City Mission, the then Chief Officer James Braidwood, requested that a person be made available to look after the spiritual welfare of his fire-fighters. In the United States, Chaplaincy has been a part of the framework of the Fire Services, ingrained as part of the culture in tradition-rich departments such as Chicago, Ohio, Boston and New York. Most famously, NYFD Chaplain Fr. Mychal F. Judge lost his life to flying debris from the South Tower when he re-entered the North Tower lobby of the World Trade Center, shortly after administering last rites to a wounded firefighter.

At MDFR the first identified Department Chaplain was Father Paul Edwards who also served as a Chaplain for the Mi-



ami-Dade Police Department. Throughout the years, various other members of local clergy, such as Father Engbers, have filled in when needed and requested at departmental events and funerals. Special Assistant James Byrd and Lt Randy Killian also served as Chaplains during their careers, performing various invocations at different functions. Chief Mike Opalka was officially named Department Chaplain during Fire Chief Charles Phillips tenure (2002) and continues to actively serve today offering support to retirees and support in major events such as Champlain Towers South building collapse (2021). On May 28 2009, Chief Patricia Frosch was appointed as MDFR Lead Chaplain by Fire Chief Herminio Lorenzo and was instrumental in the formation of the MDFR Chaplaincy Advisory Board. With Chief P. Frosch's retirement the baton was passed to Firefighter Mario J Gonzalez as the Chaplain Coordinator and with his retirement in 2019 the baton was passed to Lt. Alex Trinchet. Furthermore 11 new chaplains were appointed by Fire Chief David Downey on February 23, 2019.

The MDFR Chaplaincy Program has evolved from a highly respected ceremonial position to an intrinsic component of the Departments emotional, psychological and spiritual wellness programs. This was substantially evident due to the significant stressors of COVID-19 (2020) and Champlain Towers South building collapse (2021). The program's groundbreaking approach of training their own to perform the duties required by a Chaplain has enabled it to have both visibility within, and buy-in from the rank and file. Being firefighters themselves, the MDFR Chaplains can speak from shared experience. The MDFR Chaplain is trained and certified in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM), and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). MDFR Chaplaincy not only operates within the Department's CISM structure, serving as the pastoral counseling arm to any requested CISM intervention, but it is also readily available to respond to a variety of employee/retiree needs.

MDFR Chaplaincy currently counts with the service of 16 Chaplains. These individuals include retired and non-retired personal that serve their fellow brothers and sisters in their circle influence either in operations, USAR or other aspects as well.

The MDFR Chaplain list is located in MDFR intranet under the MDFR Employee Support Office section.

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SOS, I don't want to be here

Editor's page, my chance at informing and inspiring



This is my page. Where I'm at as a person, and the message that's important for me to get across. Funny thing is, I don't want to be here chit chatting with you. And I don't want to be the editor of the Jumpline magazine either. I would like to go back to Jan 6, 2021, when my fun handsome strong 22-year-old son was still alive and well. At that

time, I was still married, and my wife and kids and I were living near perfect typical lives, with many issues like everyone. But I had hope. I didn't know it was hope, but it was hope. The hope that everything would just keep working out and that I would continue with my 47-year-old blissful life as a retired MDRF guy, husband, and father of 2 awesome healthy kids. I want to go back to that time and just be.

Jan 6, in the morning, my son sent me a hysterical photo, like we often all shared in our family. It was his cheap delicious breakfast at Waffle House. Oh man, I was jealous but happy thinking what a funny boy I've raised. Later that same exact day we heard the worst words ever created/spoken. A doctor at the Trauma ICU came to us and said, "I'm sorry but there's nothing else we can do, we'd like your family to come back to the room." Life changed forever. There lay my fun handsome strong 22-year-old son, but he was lifeless.

He fought like a soldier in the back of Rescue 50. He battled his way out of the ER at Trauma. He kept fighting and survived the Operating Room. But in the ICU he coded and survived and coded and survived. He just couldn't fight any more. His time with us was over. He had been shot in a friend's garage, just a few doors down from our house in Palmetto Bay.

My son Aaron got a phenomenal response from MDPD, MDRF, and JMH South Trauma. Unfortunately, what he needed (and what my heart still needs now) was a miracle. He was

my best buddy. I'm not at peace with him not being physically in my life. Still very painfully, I admit it just wasn't our day to get a miracle. Within a month of dying he received his MDRF invitation to be part of the next class. His EMT/ FF certifications made us so proud. 3rd gen MDRF he would have been. I dreamed of that crazy fun tailboard type EMT/TRT kind of wild guy.



So here I am. June 1, 2022, sitting in Olympic National Park. Washington State. All by myself, camping. Making the last tweaks to this article I am contributing as the new Editor in Chief of Local 1403's reinvented and rejuvenated Jumpline Magazine. Solitude is good as I seek peace with my new life. My son is gone. I'm divorced (again). None of this was supposed to be. Who am I?

I want to give a big thanks to those in our Local who set up this new Jumpline magazine format years ago. It's unfortunate that it never took off back then, but I thank the previous Local 1403 team that started to put together this new fancy-pants glossy magazine format. The new glamorous style you are reading will greatly assist me in accomplishing why I am here. In a nutshell, it's healing by helping and serving. I took this Editor gig, ha, to help me climb out of the grief pit. And to maybe help others. So here I am. I said yes. I'll accept the offer of Jumpline Editor to help put together an awesome rag that will inform, entertain, HELP, AND INSPIRE. And selfishly, a chance for me to get back into life and interact with other humans without as much pain.

My main personal goals: Strengthen MDRF/Local 1403's ability to provide miracles. Stay connected to a department, career, and people I love. Help myself survive and thrive.

To the on duty people I say our neighbors only have one shot at a miracle. And it's you. No one else is coming. For all the families that are devastated every day in Miami-Dade Co, I ask the members to double down on SOS. I have put together and presented a class I titled, "For all the Aaron's out there, SOS Attitude of Hope".

S = Skills, O = Oath, S = Seconds count. Would you want the guys/gals working on your child to train often and have impeccable Skills? An Oath to have the absolute best attitude when working on your family would be so nice, wouldn't it? Do Seconds count when crews are responding to your family's life and death emergency? I bet you think they do! To that end, your SOS is partially why I'm here.

I've learned and developed so much since Jan 6 2021. I ask

that you please also consider implementing these 2 things in your life now. (I always loved teaching and learning key messages. Sorry. I guess some things never change lol)

1. Extend your hand please. Dark places are almost unsurvivable. Trust me, I now know what it feels like to not want to live any longer. And sadly, we all surely know someone that did not survive their dark place. Reach out an open hand to people you even remotely think are in a dark places. Let me tell you, when you don't feel like living anymore, the love and support from friends and family can get you through the day! The darkness is real! I'd never been to the dark place before. It's powerful! Your extended hand and love can be the light. CRITICALLY IMPORTANT: YOUR COMPASSION CAN GIVE PEOPLE IN THE DARK, A REASON TO LIVE. THE LOVE I DID RECEIVE FROM THE BROTHERHOOD HELPED ME SURVIVE EVERY DAY THOSE FIRST FEW MONTHS. Kudos to those we work with that recognize this and have lived a compassionate life trying to help others. Here writing and immersing myself in this unacceptable part of my life gives me chest pain. In fact I've had chest pain this entire week in Washington State. It's a place my family and I played in every few years. I'm better overall, but this is a tough week to be here, where my life was once perfect, and my kids played joyfully in the mountains. The darkness persists.

2. Tomorrow isn't promised. Try to relax, enjoy, and fix/accept the frictions that divide you and yours. We've all heard it a million times. Luckily, at our home we lived life to the fullest! My family and I played like rock stars. For that I'm very thankful. 22 awesome years of that boy. We joked and enjoyed life 24/7 (well almost 24/7, we're humans lol). Like a good friend of mine says when he's describing when he went looking for his beautiful 19yo daughter who was late getting home, "when we came over the hill and saw all the emergency lights our lives changed forever." To his story I say, you've got to work super



hard now, to maximize this life. We don't know when the people whose love we're addicted to will be gone forever.

So I just want to say again to the active on the job folks, you are your response territories only hope. If your skills need help, or you find your attitude waning, or you forgot that seconds count remember this, my son bled to death January 6 2021. Just a block from our house. MDRF Battalion 9 C shift unit's valiant efforts were in vain, the damage had been done in delays by people in that home and other shenanigans before crews even had a chance. (I am forever grateful for the unrivaled energy I witnessed when I arrived at the scene and opened the door to R50 and saw them and E4 at work. Still haven't had the guts to go say thanks. I'd be a blubbering mess still to this day. I don't think I could speak in their presence.



They did CPR on my son. That's data read error my brain cannot accept). But you on duty peeps need to bring your SOS attitude of hope game to work just in case there's a one in a million chance for someone. Help each other step up and be the miracle my son didn't get. You and your crew can be that miracle. Do it for all the Aaron's out there that will slip away and leave a family gasping for air... Forever.

Thank you for your time reading The Jumpline. Thank you Local 1403 for this opportunity to have "new experiences." As new experiences are what the latest grief research shows helps people that are not as resilient after losing a kid, become more fulfilled. (Fulfillment is also a goal of many of our Local 1403 help groups for people in dark places or suffering in some way). I was fulfilled and on top of the world in September 2020 as a 47 year old newly retired guy. I was super fulfilled Jan 6, 2021, in the morning, just before my world took a hit that will last my entire life. Now who am I? I don't know. Thank goodness my happy college daughter brings me euphoria. (Dewey Henry Scholarship award winner!!! Thank you 1403). And I still really enjoy the Fire Service and MDRF/Local 1403. The rest is still to be determined. Even feeling strong enough overall now, the dark place is still hiding in there, just waiting for me to slip.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with Jumpline duties send us an email. You're hired!

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