



Professional Interest Section of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association

FLAHR 2024 Winter Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Location: Daytona Grande Oceanfront Resort

422 North Atlantic Avenue

Daytona Beach, Florida 32118

Room: Nautilus I & II

Time: 1300-1500 hours

COMMITTEE

Heather Lorimor
CHAIRMAN

Pat Feagle
VICE CHAIRMAN

Thomas Bloski
SECRETARY

Frank DeFrancesco
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN

REGIONAL REPS

Jeff Rohrer
Region 1

Allen Willis, Jr.
Region 2

Sean Withers
Region 3

Jeremy Feil
Region 4

Aaron Rhodes
Region 5

Jason Wilkins
Region 6

Brent Bloomfield
Region 7

LIAISONS

Greg DeWitt
FFCA

Michelle Cechowski
LEPC

Jeff Strickland
FSFC

Call to Order- Chief Lorimor

A call to order was announced at 1312 hours.

Roll Call/ Member Roster-Capt. Bloski

Roll call was verified and quorum for business was present. All members present for section were present except for:

- Immediate Past Chairman, Frank DeFrancesco,
- Region 7 representative, Brent Bloomfield
- Region 5 representative, Aaron Rhodes

Review of 2023 FLAHR Summer Meeting Minutes-Capt. Bloski

No revisions were noted but a note that the State Fire Marshall position is not filled by Jeff Strickland.

Consent Agenda:

Report of 2024 FFCA FLAHR General Elections-Captain Feagle

The following election took place for Chairman and Region 6 representative. The results are attached from the election chairman.

Report of Officers-Chief Lorimor, Capt. Feagle, Capt. Bloski

Chief Dwyer provided updates on upcoming DSOC funding from the state, emphasizing the importance of tracking grant-funded equipment in Ready Ops for its current location and functionality. He highlighted that grant-funded equipment is considered deployable assets by the state during emergencies. Chief Dwyer also addressed gap deficiencies, potential future funding from the state of Florida, and ongoing spending on hazmat response equipment. The Governor DeSantis has allocated \$8 million for HazMat and USAR in Florida, unrelated to law enforcement or grants, with plans for statewide exercises. As hazmat team sustainment remains a challenge for future planning, the upcoming tabletop exercises preceding two state full-scale drills we help team capabilities and planning options. These will be proctored by FDEM.

Report of Liaisons

Chief Graham, speaking on behalf of FFCA liaison Chief Dewitt, he highlighted the unprecedented collaboration among special operations disciplines. He discussed ongoing legislative inspections of fire service agencies, specifically referencing the potential negative impacts of current special district legislation.

Mr. Strickland report from State Fire College is noted in old business on the need for future Florida Hazmat team assessments.

Mr. Cechowski reported on the LEPC, noting that local LEPCs have not received HMEP contracts, and regional councils are temporarily responsible for fronting course education expenses.

Reports of Committees

Chief Lamm gave a brief report on the off-shore hazmat response committee. This is moving forward with great success. Another pilot course is in the planning stages in 2024.

Chief Lorimor reported on the FLAHR hazmat deployment committee, emphasizing the need to coordinate with local incident command posts and area EOCs to prevent overlapping assets. Plans for hazmat team pre-deployment in forward command posts during emergencies were discussed, along with a designated SME in the State EOC for liaison between ESF 4, 8, 9, and 10. In further support, John Kohnke and TJ Lyons updated the section on the state web EOC and READYOPS, urging those without access to contact them for assistance.

Mr. Kohnke urged members to respond to the PFAS study sent out in 2023. and Mr. Lyons discussed the completion of the state mutual aid agreement. Agencies were encouraged to complete and return the agreements promptly. The state is working on a mobile application for FROC forms to enhance efficiency, with Chasity Brown from State FDEM as the point of contact.

There was no reportable actions under natural gas responses.

Old Business/ Unfinished Discussion

Chairman Lorimor confirmed the amendments to the section by-laws were completed and accepted by the section members by on-line vote in Nov. 2023.

Mr. Strickland from the State Fire Marshall's office expressed the state's focus on risk assessment, anticipating the examination of a hazmat team assessment program in 2025. Chief Lorimor and Chief Lamm mentioned the State Fire Marshall's gap and needs assessment for USAR and HazMat teams, in collaboration with FDEM, TTF, and FLAHR. Florida Hazmat Team assessment are in the planning stages for 2025. The assessment process may involve hiring two individuals, and a standardized process for team recognition is in development. Chief Murphy reinforced the need for FLAHR to draft a letter to SERC outlining future assessments, endorsed by FLAHR members. Chief Collins initiated a discussion on the relationship between Florida Hazmat Teams and RSDTF, with Mr. Murphy clarifying it as more related to mutual aid agreements than a committee-driven body.

General discussion ensued on hazmat incident awareness, with a reminder of supplemental project notification (CH. 556) and associated fines for non-compliance.

Regional Reports-Group Regional Representatives

Reports to the section were made by all representatives present at section meeting.

New Business

There was no new business brought before the section at this meeting.

Announcements- FLAHR members

Mr. Kohnke urged members to respond to the PFAS study sent out in 2023.

Mr. Lyons discussed the completion of the state mutual aid agreement. Agencies were encouraged to complete and return the agreements promptly. In addition, the state is working on a mobile application for FROC forms to enhance efficiency, with Chasity Brown from State FDEM as the point of contact.

Adjournment-Chief Lorimor

Adjournment for meeting was confirmed at 1453 hours.

Attachments:

1. 2024 FFCA FLAHR election results
2. 2024 FFCA FLAHR Winter meeting agenda
3. 2024 FFCA FLAHR Winter meeting attendance sheet



Mike Bloski, FLAHR Secretary



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Scott Chapell

FSFC

2024 FLAHR Elections

Chairman:

Heather Lorimor

18 yes votes cast

Alexander Rall-Novo

10 yes votes cast

Elected Chairman: Heather Lorimor

Region 4 Representative:

Jeremey Feil

14 yes votes cast

Brandon Buchanan

10 yes votes cast

Elected Representative: Jeremey Feil

I affirm the above results from the 2024 FFCA FLAHR elections

Pat Feagle
Pat Feagle- Vice Chair



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STANDARD ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order- Chief Lorimor

Roll Call/ Member Roster-Capt. Boski

- o Verification of Quorum-Capt. Boski

Review of 2023 FLAHR Summer Meeting Minutes-Capt. Boski

- o Motion needed to accept

Consent Agenda:

Report of 2024 FFCA FLAHR General Elections-Captain Feagle

- o Election Committee to announce Nominations
- o Nominees platform (3-minutes maximum)-Capt. Boski
- o Election

Report of Officers-Chief Lorimor, Capt. Feagle, Capt. Boski

- o Florida SWP notification-Li Battery Incidents
- o FFCA FLAHR Logo change with explanation
- o Award of 2024 FFCA FLAHR Hazmat Responder of the Year award
- o Fire Service Showcase, Tallahassee, Fl. Feb. 15 , 2024
- o DSOC/ FROC future funding and coordination

Report of Liaisons

- o Report from FFCA Liaison-Chief Dewitt
- o Report for Florida State Fire Marshall-
- o Report from LEPC Liaison-Mrs. Cechowski
- o Report from Florida Hazmat Symposium group-Chief Lamm

Reports of Committees

- o Report of SERC Training Task Forces:

Full Name	Organization Name	FED/CE Number
PRINT		FLAHR MEMBER:
HEATHER LORIMOR	VOLUSIA FIRE / FLAHR	78125
PAT Feagle	Orlando Fire / FLAHR	831636
MIKE BLOCKI	SOUTHERN MANATEE	YES
ED Dwyer	ESTERO Fire Rescue	YES
Jeremy Feil	Santa County Fire	Yes
Allen Willis	Tallahassee Fire Dept	Yes
JOE MASTANDREA	HCFR OEM	NOT YET
Brandon Buchanan	Tampa Fire Rescue	YES
Jeff Strickland	DSFM	
JOSEPH Vanderweid	HCFR	175512
Robert Collier	TAMPA FIRE	YES
Steven Cilione Jr.	Pasco Fire	81923
Dustin McKay	Dinellus County	yes 96998
BRIAN WALICKI	WEST PALM FIRE	YES
Math Mayall	MIFR	yes
BEN COLLIER	BAY CO FIRE / HM / IB	YES
Tom Neident	Brevard Fire	yes
Petersen Kelly	Brevard Fire	yes
TIM DORSEY	STARSOTA COUNTY FIRE	YES
Jonathan Hamm	City of Cocoa	yes
Michelle Cechowski	ECFLEPC	yes
RICHARD KNOFF	CCFR	yes
Stefan Engstrom	Tallahassee Fire	175500
Mike Zickler	OCFELI	Yes
LARAO RODRIGUEZ	Palm Beach County Fire	BOB KROPA of
Glenn D. Shubert	Gainesville Fire	yes
Sam Withers	Gainesville Fire Rescue	yes

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