

**2024 First There First Care Gathering of Eagles
Committee Meeting
September 13, 2023**

ATTENDEES: Meeting commenced at 9:06 AM

Kelly Andrews, Bruce Caruso, Johana Cinque, Vince Cinque, Todd Draizin, Antonio Gandia, Jaime Greene, Bill McGrath, Colleen McMahon, Wayland Morrison, Paul Pepe, Tim Roche, Kristin Sands, Mary Anne Usher, Gabriel Zahora, Alison Zerbe

PHONE: Antonio Gandia, Jerry Gonzalez, Marc Hubschman, Jeff Levy, Tammy Nugent, Candace Pineda, Cliff Ricketts, Stephen Shaw, Rachele Solomon, Rodney Turpel

Committee Meeting Minutes from 8/16/2023 E-Board

MOTION to Approve the Minutes of 8/16/2023

Motion made by Lieutenant Johana Cinque

Seconded by Chief Bruce Caruso

MOTION passed unanimously

- **Chair Report – Chief Draizin**
 - 2024 Theme “EMS – A Global Community”
 - Trying to open the conference to international travel.
 - *One thousand Save the Date cards are here to be distributed.*
 - Event Contract for 2024 FTFC/GOE Conference with the Seminole Hard Rock
 - The contract has been submitted and in review to see if the numbers are in order.
 - Using last year’s hotel, rooms, etc. to be basis for 2024 conference.
 - After the review they will forward it to Chief Turpel, and Chief Brocato for their signature.
 - FTFC has been approved for the credit line.
 - Trademark and Copyright status for the First There First Care name.
 - The First There First Care is already trademarked serial (87499306) in Broward County by a few fire chiefs and it expires in January/February 2024. It also is education-based for Stop the Bleed training. They use FTFC for graduate certifications.
 - If the current owners don’t renew it and it’s uncontested, we will own it. The current owners have owned it for 8 years and we have been using it for 24.
 - The Attorney, from Weston, said we could continue to use First There First Care but might get a cease and desist from the current owners. Then we would have to fight it with a cease and desist – operate simultaneously.
 - The attorney from was going to do the entire trademark for free.
 - Do not advertise that we want to get it trademarked.

- FCABC & Gathering of Eagles MOU
 - Dr. Pepe did not review the MOU. Chief Draizin gave him the MOU to review and return.
 - An email from Hard Rock hotel (Chief Draizin will refer to Hard Rock people). FTFC no longer must request a credit line – approved for \$250,000 for direct bill.
- EDCO bill for a trophy ordered has been closed.
 - Chief Draizin said some of the committee thinks Registration is opening too soon. After a discussion on whether to open some parts earlier, it was decided to open full Registration after the holidays. Chief Draizin said he wants to open by January 15, 2024. *He asked the website chair, Chief Gonzalez, Lauderhill, if he would work with FTFC's web partner about the opening coming soon. and pushed out to January 15, 2024.*
 - Chief Gonzalez has full access to the mail account server and can create a mail account for those who want one, @ FirstThereFirstCare.com. It would be a separate login on your phone to go directly to FirstThereFirstCare.com. *Chief Draizin will contact Chief Gonzalez with all the information.*
 - Chief Gonzalez will not put old information on this website. They want to get the 2024 information on the website now, then improve it.
- Co-Chair Report – Chief Caruso
 - EMS Grant –
 - For the 2023 conference, Alison Zerbe is requesting invoices, proof of payment, and if possible, a list of people that went to the conference without paying, from Broward County. She sent the email to Chief Levy, Chief Brocato, and Chief Turpel. She will forward the email to Chief Cinque who will get the invoice to her. Sooner the better for Alison to get that information.
 - The 2024 conference has not been posted by FDOH because of transitions. We might not have enough time to get the funds because the grants must get approved by the Commission. She called the FDOH and is waiting for them to contact her. Alison may be able to decide where the funds will go. If she can rollover funds, there might be money left over for FTFC conference. Chief Cinque is still waiting on some payable from last year he may use in 2024.
 - Shirts
 - They are going to continue using the same shirts for the committee except for new members. Chief Draizin asked anyone who needs a new shirt to speak with Chief Caruso.
 - Jackets were a big hit. Getting more smalls this year.
 - Challenge coins.- Chief Caruso will get with Kim, ArtWorks. They will design the challenge coins, as well as the ALS competition shirts.

- **Eagles - Dr. Pepe**
 - There will be more people coming. Trying to get the date and time out earlier. He was asked four months ago to speak to the Metro Fire Chiefs about four months ago. It was well received. Dr. Pepe was asked to make two other presentations. He asked for Chief Draizin's about working together with the Metro Fire Chiefs. Chief Draizin agreed.

- **Awards – Chief Turpel**
 - Currently the Fire Chiefs would keep their meeting day the same. They said they'd talk about Wednesday. Chief Turpel said to get them to the FTFC E-Board meeting and discuss it. *Chief Draizin asked Johana Cinque if she would contact Chief Brocato and Chief _____, FCABC, for the October 25th E-Board meeting.*
 - FTFC now has 12 awards. The Chiefs now have four awards at the December meeting. Chief Turpel will take five FTFC awards to Fire Chief's E-Board to ask if they would take them at the December meeting. The FTFC would then have the seven life-time achievement awards and the Fire Chiefs' would have 9 awards, which includes the educator and innovator awards.
 - Chief Draizin said FTFC still has a challenge that's why they want to move the Fire Chiefs' meeting to the next day. *They have the ALS Competition and too many things going on. Discuss this at FTFC's October 25th meeting.*

- **Event Coordinator Update – Lieutenant Cinque**
 - She had a few interactions with Hard Rock about the ALS competition. Making sure what FTFC wants is doable.
 - Regarding rooms and reservations FTFC wanted to make sure it's in the contract. They need to avoid some of the inconsistencies by having someone at the front desk. They need to talk to Mark.

- **Registration – Chief Levy**
 - At the October meeting he wants to discuss how to proceed with registration and registering for the hot classes. Chief Levy suggested using the back of the ID card for a QR code that takes them to the agenda to help streamline the backup at the registration desk. Not registering for lecture classes would also simplify things. Finalize this at the E-Board meeting October 25th.
 - Chief Levy was to get back with Candace Pineda and Chief Carter to discuss using Swoogo for the call for speakers and previous years, so they don't duplicate efforts. The module that was in Swoogo for call procedures is only in demo mode and has not been paid for by FCABC. Ngoc hasn't had time to explore.
 - Chief Draizin mentioned they talked about Swoogo auto-filling attendees registration. When they login and get their app, they will get their registration agenda. Chief Levy said once they decide how to proceed with registration they could talk to Ngoc. Chief Draizin said then, there is no way for Swoogo to automatically do it. Everyone would have to login to their app and create/update their agenda as they register. They do this at other

conferences. Chief Levy's recommendation is to simplify registration to be consistent with big conferences. *They will talk about this at the October meeting.*

- Chief Caruso said to invite students to come to the free classes. See how successful this was and then possibly expanding that to FTFC conference and GOE. *Save the Date* cards should be going to colleges/schools.
- Chief Caruso also wants to make sure FTFC fees are in line with similar conferences. *They will discuss under New Business section.* Chief Levy said they increased fees last year.
- Jaime Greene said regarding the students the State meeting is in October, and January at the Florida Fire Conference. *Jaime Greene will tell the conference program managers about what's available to the students.*
- Johana displayed the fees and they looked at last year's increase. Chief Cinques said increase the two-day fees \$50 from last year's attendance. That would impact revenues. The more significant number is the full week (261) \$94,000. One-day is minimal. The Eagles only (206) was \$50,000. Chief Caruso mentioned if costs were increasing. i.e., Hard Rock. Last year cost increased but revenue didn't. Don't want a huge increase, but to keep in line with similar conferences.
- Johana paid \$350 for one-day and Chief Cinque paid \$600 for one-day+½ for conferences they attended.
- Chief Cinque suggested separating the lectures from hands-on. Symposiums would be hands-on. He thinks hands-on should be booked in addition to registration. Chief Turpel says also compare hands-on fees with other similar conferences. Conference Education were going to evaluate similar conference fees.
- Need to account for people paying for one/couple of days but then attending the full conference. This effects food and beverage. Chief McGrath suggested color-coding badges. The printers only print black and white. They suggested stickers and Chief Caruso said embedded in the QR code. Chief Draizin wants something that would be noticed. Chief McGrath said at the FTFCGOE conference nobody stopped him from going into the Eagles. *FTFC plans to do better 2024.*
- They had success with the honor guard symposium/competition. The honor guards were completely self-sufficient and had a sponsor that paid for everything. Their sponsor received the revenue. If the committee goes forward with the honor guards FTFC will make it a sponsorship. *Johana will put this on the E-Board agenda.*
- ALS competition was like other conferences.
- Chief Cinque said they will have a prospectus ready for the October E-Board meeting. Currently, they haven't changed any of the pricing. They eliminated the Experience Hall. They have four additional booths available. They are going to formalize the Registration area into one of the high-dollar sponsorships.

- Finance – Chief Cinque
 - Chief Draizin wants FTFC to be branded but not lose its identity. He was concerned about Registration. *They will discuss more at the E-Board meeting.*
 - Chief Draizin announced that the FTFC's account got hijacked. They got a substantial amount of money, but Chief Draizin is confident that FTFC will get it back. FTFC changed their account and checks are being reordered. Those that are outstanding from the old account checks will get the new account checks.
 - The old account was caught on the 7th and the investigators have 10 days to get back with FTFC. FTFC caught it early and they will probably be okay. FTFC has an account alert, and they will ask the investigators why they weren't alerted FTFC has paid 97% of their bills.
 - They still have an outstanding AR check for \$13,500. They are waiting on a check from Hamilton Med for \$10,000. The last one pending is \$3500 from Medline. Chief McGrath and Chief Roche need some equipment for ALS competition. *Chief Turpel has funding in the main Fire Chiefs' account and the Chiefs need to work with Chief Turpel. Chief Cinque has not yet done the awards for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. He will get that done. He is working on the theme for 2024.*
- PIO Update – Chief Gordon
 - Chief Draizin said they have a good candidate to take over the PIO chair. They will discuss it more with the E-Board. Chief Ricketts will be the MC. The roles for PIO have been split.
- Website Update – Chief Gonzalez
 - Years ago, they put all the award winners on the website. Chief Draizin wants to start announcing that on the website. *Chief Turpel has all of them and Chief Draizin wants them on the website. Recreate the who, what, where, when, how, and why.*
- Logistics Update – Chief Hubschman
 - Chief Hubschman had no issue with logistics. At this time, he couldn't think of anything that was a concern for 2024. *Chief Caruso asked if they find the FTFC step and repeat? If they can't find it, they need to get one for 2024.*

- EMS Speakers Report – Chief Shaw
 - Chief Shaw is going to collaborate with Candace Pineda and Chief Carter.
 - Chief Draizin said that theme would be of help.
 - Candace added that the speaker's committee has out invitations for a keynote speaker. They are looking for a large keynote to open the conference and a keynote to close the conference.
 - Making sure the only registration is needed for hands-on classes because they have a maximum.
 - Continuing the leadership program, front line EMS, new sessions, and opportunity for pre-con training for hands-on.
 - Chief Draizin brought up the trial Smartsheets registration for a subscription. Johana talked to the company, and they need to follow up on the dates the company offered.
 - Chief Draizin mentioned speaker content. He had discussion with several inspectors in the last couple years. The inspectors requested to have a track for inspectors' renewal of their licenses. Paramedics need to come for their license and could pay extra for an inspectors' trac. Inspectors are going to get back with Chief Draizin on what is required to renew their license. *Candace asked for the inspector's contact. FTFC may be able to support them.*
- Nursing Trac – no one present
- ALS Competition – Chief Roche
 - *The committee is getting together in November.* They have a concept for the final and will talk with competition committee members, finalize the concept, and look for a preliminary location. They are using the same format for external and internal. The main thing they need is funding and they talked about working with .
- Nursing Competition – no one present
- Honor Guard Competition – Jackie Sandoval not present
- 27th Anniversary EMS Gala – Johana Cinque for James Cecil
 - James Cecil is moving away. He'd still like to be on the 2024 committee. They are going to be looking for someone to set up. Looking for a volunteer to champion the gala to work with Cecil to understudy for the following year. *Everyone to keep this in mind if they know someone.*
 - Chief McGrath suggested a table at each end with something like blackjack.
 - Johana said ACA mentioned doing the 2024 gala. They were very involved in putting everything together. It would be a matter of coordinating and making sure things happen.
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- **Old Business**
 - Website, FCABC, and opening seating.
- **New Business**
 - Chief Gabriel Zahora, from Fort Lauderdale, talked with Chief Draizin at the Fire Chiefs' meeting about increasing FTFC's international exposure. Chief Zahora has a direct relationship with Dr. _____.
 - He has been working with international for 15 years. He's been working mainly with South America: Spain, Portugal, and UK, Europe, and Australia.
 - This year he can be more involved with FTFC. The main thing is to narrow FTFC's expectations. He wants to know where is FTFC going to go international?
 - Chief Turpel said the Fire Chiefs "1000 percent" want an international component. Chief Turpel wants Gabriel to email him (rturpel@nlauderdale.org). North Lauderdale and Margate fire have been working with the fire fighters in Chile for over 2½ years. Chief Turpel's division chief is taking the Mayor to Santiago in two weeks. There is a "huge thing going on between them and us." They have become sister fire departments. They would like to tell them in two weeks "here are the cards."
 - Chief Zahora said that the challenge they have is most of the countries outside the United States, Fire is separate from EMS. In South America reaching EMS is going to be more through governmental and hospitals. Fire Fighter Federations and Fire Chiefs communicate but they challenge each other. It's different.
 - Chief Zahora has ten fire fighters from Chile coming here in three weeks for the Fire Expo. He is going to talk to the fire fighters. He will meet up with Chief Turpel and others to work together. "The main thing is FTFC starts to grow international, what are you going to do if FTFC has 100 or 200 people from international?" Chief Zahora suggests, especially at the beginning, to cover the costs and don't look for so much in profits. To those numbers FTFC needs to add \$3000/\$4000 to cover traveling, hotels, and meals.
 - Chief Turpel said that Santiago is paying for them to go down there. There are some country's departments that are going to support their fire fighters to come here. The community is international and FTFC wants to be international. GOE already has a worldwide network.
 - Chief Draizin realizes Chief Zahora's request for the costs. If FTFC gets 100 or 500 international, Chief Draizin said, "We're going to go."
 - Chief Draizin said Chief Zahora *is* the international person for FTFC. Chief Turpel announced he already had Chief Zahora's assistant, Derrick.

- Johana suggested a Spanish class with Chief Zahora's input. Chief Zahora said in south Florida they have many directors that speak different languages. The main thing now is to learn about the conference. He doesn't know all the details of what they/he can offer. Chief Draizin asked what Chief Zahora thinks FTFC needs to offer them? Chief Zahora said, if possible, in each area of the conference have at least one Spanish-speaking session or one Spanish-speaking instructor. There are many languages, but he only offers English or Spanish.
- Chief Draizin said FTFC wants Chief Zahora to bring his recommendations of what he/they need for the October 25th E-Board meeting, and Johana also mentioned topics they would want.

Next E-Board Meeting: October 25, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at OMETS
Next Committee Meeting will probably be 3rd Wednesday in November

Adjourned at 10:36 a.m.
Chief Caruso and Lieutenant Cinque