



*Professional Interest Section of the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association*

## FFCA FLAHR Section 2025 Winter Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

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**

### Chair Lorimor:

**I submit the following minutes for your approval, errors and mistakes should be forwarded to Bloski for immediate correction.**

### Call to Order, Chair Lorimor

Call to Order was made at 1304 hours

### Roll Call/ Member Roster, Sec. Bloski

**Roll call was conducted with 26 section members present at meeting.**

*Board present: Lorimor, Feagle, Bloski, DeFrancesco, Wills Jr., Withers, Feil, Rigney*

*Board not-present: Rohrer, Rhodes(proxy present, Neidert), Bloomfield, A quorum existed to conduct business.*

*Add a line for the positions people had a proxy for like Neidert for Rhodes.*

**Review of 2024 FLAHR Summer Meeting Minutes (attachment): Motion required.**

**Motion made by Lamm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shuford, Motion passed.**

### Consent Agenda:

#### **2025 FFCA FLAHR General Elections**

*Election Committee to announce Nominations*

*Nominees' platform (3-minutes maximum)*

*Elections conducted*

*Elections were conducted with the following results:*

*Vice Chair (vacated, unopposed): Bloski. Southern Manatee*

*Secretary (vacated, unopposed): Shuford, Gainesville*

*Region 1 (unopposed): Rohrer, Escambia*

*Region 3 (unopposed): Withers, Gainesville*

*Region 5 (vacated, unopposed): Neidert, Brevard*

*Region 6 (vacated, unopposed): Rigney, Sarasota County*

*Region 7 (vacated, via election ballot): Walker, Hollywood*

*Chair Lorimor will be scheduling a meeting in the future to brief with elected positions that will seat July 1, 2025 to discuss Ready-Op's access and entries (**needs follow-up**).*

State Fire Marshall report: Jeff Strickland, not present for report.

Florida Emergency Management: TJ Lyons/ John Kohnke

*Kohnke presented the state SERC continues to examine Lithium vehicles/ Battery issues with concentration on micro-mobility batteries. Discussion Ensued that an issue exists with collection and disposal of batteries. The state is working with FDEP to indemnify/ setup waste disposal company to accept batteries but reminder given that each local agency/ department should be working with local waster collectors to suggest future plans to handle these issues. A reminder was given to continue to report Li battery incidents/issues with state SWP (warning point) and contacting them for data collection by the state. A suggestion was given to State SWP to be able to give some type of guidance to the report caller for future incidents (**will need follow-up**).*

*In addition, a reminder was given by Lyons on the importance of Florida Ready-Op's system. This system serves as the central data center for activation and deployments with a future need for Incident Support Team directives and information. More work is expected. A mention was given on the need for wildland debris management in lite of the recent California wild fires in January 2025.*

*Reminder of the upcoming Florida Capitol Day in Tallahassee, Florida on April 3, 2025. Chair Lorimor, will be point of contact. A request was made to Florida Hazmat Teams to support this event in any capacity. A special thanks to Chief Wills and Tallahassee for their continued support.*

*DSOC update: Chief Ed Dwyer: Not present, but report given by Kohnke and Lyons. Cuts continue to funding with impacts that will be felt in maintenance contracts at team levels. Projects submitted were examined but and ranked to mission priority. A reminder that the state USAR/TRT exercise is slated for Feb. 25-27, 2025 at Camp Blanding with IST function of that exercise scheduled for Feb 25, 2025 (location not noted).*

## **Report of Liaisons**

Florida Fire Chief's Association: Chief Dewitt: Not present for report.

2025 Florida Hazmat Symposium: Chief Lamm: Present

*The Symposium was another success with +700 students in attendance. A special note was given to the team from Statesville, NC for their attendance after being impacted by the devastating Hurricane Helene. The following personnel were awarded:*

*FFCA HazMat Responder of the Year - LT Fergus Kelly from Brevard County*

*President's Award - Sai Oicata East Central Florida LEPC*

*HazMat Mover and Shaker Award - Dustin McKay St. Pete Fire*

*In the Hot Zone Award - Tyler Hoke City of Greensboro Fire Department*

*Richard H. Stilp Lifetime Achievement Award - Toby Bevelacqua*

*The following were awards given for the Hazmat Team Competition hosted by Response Technologies:*

*1<sup>st</sup> Place: Orange County Fire Rescue*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sarasota County Fire Rescue*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Orlando Fire Department*

State LEPC Report: Ms. Cechowski: present

*Report given that Florida LEPC districts have been notified on HMEP grant monies for project assignment. A discussion ensued on the possible additional funding with suggestion of support to the off-shore hazmat project or future team assessments.*

### **Reports of Committees and Regional Activities**

*Report of Florida SERC Training Task Force: Chief Lamm, Present. Report given that the state has approved the ALS Toxmedic protocols that will be distributed to Florida teams (required follow-up needed).*

*Regional Reports-Group Regional Representatives*

*Region 1: Jeff Rohrer (Given by Mike Bloski)*

*Region 2: Allen Willis Jr.*

*Region 3: Sean Withers*

*Region 4: Jeremy Feil*

*Region 5: Aaron Rhodes (Given by Tom Neidert)*

*Region 6: Vacant (Given by Johnny Rigney)*

*Region 7: Brent Bloomfield (Given by Brian Walker)*

Report of FFCA FLAHR Deployment Committee

Restarting the Deployment Committee to go over future plans and developments towards HazMat responses within the state for natural disasters.

### **Old Business/ Unfinished Discussion**

Florida Hazmat Team Assessment discussion: Capt. Bloski

Heavy discussion ensued on a direction to create and complete assessments. Chief Lamm suggested working with R. Dietrich to formulate a pathway. Scott Chappell reminded the section of the former assessment process pre-covid and the success that program had prior to closure. Lorimor discussed the continued work of the established committee to address and start the process (**follow-up needed**).

### **New Business**

PFAS foam disposal update: *No report was given and this subject is stricken from future business.*

Funding from Operations Readiness Evaluations (ORE): *Bloski reported letter was completed and send to the FFCA after 2024 summer meeting. This is related to old business on team assessments. The subject is stricken from future business.*

### **Announcements**

*Fire Service Day at Florida State Capitol Building, April 3, 2025*

*Chief Willis of Tallahassee made mention of the states program regarding UAS/Drone buy back for district with non-approved UAS/Drone platforms. The program is ending soon, Information located here: <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FDLE-Grants/Office-of-Criminal-Justice-Grants/Programs/SFA/Drone-Replacement>*

*Chief Willis also commented on the FHDOH white powder collection and transport to the lab. There have been changes in the handling of transport of samples to the lab and discussion is needed with local DOH on out to handle (follow-up needed).*

*Scott Chappel announcement about the upcoming USAR training event to include an IST day February 24-25, 2025 at Camp Blanding.*

**Adjournment: Motion required, 1<sup>st</sup>: Lamm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feagle, Motion Accepted.**

Attachments:  
2024 FLAHR Summer Meeting Minutes



Mike Bloski, FLAHR Secretary