Florida Ambulance Association

Meeting Minutes Draft | October 19, 2016 10:00 a.m. ET | Palm Beach Gardens, FL

# Vice President’s Greeting & WeLCome

* Board introductions, with Vice President John Peterson of Sunstar Paramedics presiding.
* July Membership meeting minutes were approved.
* Members can access the archive of all meeting documents at [www.the-faa.org/Meeting-Documents](http://www.the-faa.org/Meeting-Documents).

# Financial Report

* The September 2016 month-end bank balance was $79,348.96, with a slight increase October to date.
* Expenses are tracking well, and the FAA is overall in a very good financial position relative to years past.

# Dean Mead Advocacy Contract Renewal

* [Dean Mead](http://www.deanmead.com/) worked with the FAA during it past financial struggles, and acted as a trusted partner during a time of renewal and rebuilding.
* The renewed Dean Mead contract, ratified in August, is available on the FAA site for member review at <http://bit.ly/deanmeadFAA>.

# Fundraiser for Representative Sprowls of Pinellas

* Thank you to the members who participated in the Sprowls fundraiser, including Ambitrans, Falck, MCT Express, National Health Transport, and AMR.
* Thanks also to Coastal Health Systems of Brevard for their $1000 nonpolitical donation to FAA.

# AHCA MMA Reimbursement

* Despite much effort, FAA has unfortunately not made the strides that were originally hoped towards resolving the reimbursement issues. Several members have filed suit, and another has lodged an official state complaint.
* A member organization reminded all others to please log all outstanding claims in spreadsheets for easy tracking. For example, one organization has effectively demonstrated to that only 20 of 160 submitted claims have been paid through careful documentation.
* The FAA board will attempt to set a follow-up AHCA and MMA meeting in January in Daytona at the FAA’s meeting scheduled to take place in conjunction with the [Fire Rescue East Conference](http://www.ffca.org/fire-rescue-east).
* FAA received a member suggestion to bring the Florida Hospital Association to the table, as phone pre-authorizations are a hurdle for their staff.

# Public Records RequestS

* In August, the FAA received an anonymous letter citing Florida sunshine laws requesting all records relating to an FAA county-based member. The email response to this letter was crafted by AAA’s attorney on FAA’s behalf. On October 18, 2016, FAA received follow-up non-anonymous letter claiming non-response to the first, which has also been appropriately responded to by AAA’s attorney. The person initiating this request has a long history of filing more than 200 public records lawsuits of varying levels of merit.
* Members subject to Florida public records laws are strongly encouraged to train front-line staff in handling public records requests appropriately.
* Per AAA’s recommendation, the FAA board is again considering purchasing Directors and Officers Insurance (D&O, aka Board and Officers Insurance) as a precautionary measure. The total expenditure would be under $2000 per year.

# Florida State EMS Updates

* Mark Postma of Sunstar Paramedics was appointed to the Florida EMS Advisory Council through July 2020.
* The Florida Department of Health EMS State Plan, 2016–2021 v1 from September 2016 is available online at <http://bit.ly/FLstateplanEMS>.

# Florida Office of the Insurance Consumer Advocate’s Emergency Medical Transportation Working Group

* Background details on the Emergency Medical Transportation Working Group are available at <http://bit.ly/FLemtworkinggroup>.
* Thanks to Joe Scialdone for representing the FAA. Members can access Mr. Scialdone’s notes from the session on our secured document archive page at [www.the-faa.org/Meeting-Documents](http://www.the-faa.org/Meeting-Documents).
* The board will ask Dean Mead to put together talking points for members about key advocacy issues as well as topics being addressed by the working group.

# Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate CompAct (REPLICA)

* Sue Prentiss, REPLICA advocate, will attend the January Fire Rescue East conference.
* If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to her at [prentiss@emsreplica.org](mailto:prentiss@emsreplica.org).

# Medicare Revalidation

* FAA members are reminded to keep an eye out for their [Medicare revalidation due dates](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Revalidations.html). Some dates have been announced, while others are pending.
* Visit <https://data.cms.gov/revalidation> to check your organization’s revalidation contact information and status. In some cases, revalidation reminders have been mistakenly sent to separated employees, previous billing companies, etc, so it is important to verify that the correct information is on file for your service.

# First Coast audit

* [First Coast has announced a widespread audit](http://the-faa.org/news/4306423) of Medicare codes commonly used by ambulance services.
* The specific HCPCS codes impacted are A0427 (Ambulance service, advanced life support, emergency transport, level I) and A0428 (Ambulance service, basic life support, non­emergency transport).
* The date range for the probe is February 1, 2016, to July 31, 2016.
* Immediate Past President Skavroneck will invite a First Coast representative to attend the January membership meeting.

# Hurricane Matthew Follow-Up

* Coastal Health Systems of Brevard thanked the many fellow FAA-member ambulance services who assisted with hospital evacuations during Hurricane Matthew.
* The Florida EOC thanked ambulance services for their many contributions to public health and safety in the emergency.
* Members are reminder that in a crisis situation, it can help to coordinate through the EOC as they will ensure that your ambulances and other vehicles are fueled. (Commercial stations are often drained during emergency situations, even far inland.)
* Hurricane Matthew was a valuable learning experience for millennial employees who do not necessarily have past experience with a major hurricane in an EMS role.

# Bayonet Point Hospital Evacuation (Pasco County)

* On September 30, Bayonet Point Hospital in Pasco County had a major lightning strike and electrical generator fire, resulting in power loss throughout the facility.
* More than 200 patients were carried down stairs then evacuated by ambulance, the largest hospital evacuation since Hurrican Katrina.
* FAA members and other EMS providers from across the state sent 60–70 ambulances to assist. Bayonet Point sincerely thanks all who assisted.

# Immediate Past President Role

* Suggested official tasks for the Immediate Past President include:
  + Serve as an advisor and consultant to the President. Assist with the orientation of new board members.
  + Coordination of the selection of any awards (or the creation of an awards committee) granted by the organization.
  + Assist the president with advocacy efforts as per his or her request.
* Members discussed possible succession plans for the unlikely scenario that a president is unable to serve out the full length of his or her term.
* The FAA board will further discuss these items in Executive Session, then return with recommendations.

# Membership & Association Back-Office Management

* The first round of FAA renewal emails were deployed, with additional follow-up planned for the next several months. Hard copy notices were distributed at the meeting to attending services.
* Quarterly financials were completed on time for review by the FAA treasurer and board.
* AAA affiliate benefits are now available to FAA members.
  + Savvik Buying Group—Discounted purchasing co-op for items ranging from syringes to staples to ambulances. Reach out to [office@savvik.org](mailto:office@savvik.org) for immediate assistance.
  + Sterling Backcheck—Comprehensive and affordable employee background screening at low group rates. Contact [peter.mulherin@sterlingbackcheck.com](mailto:peter.mulherin@sterlingbackcheck.com) for a free estimate.
  + Payline Credit Card Processing—Low interchange-plus rates on card payment processing for ambulance services. Contact [smarshall@paylinedata.com](mailto:smarshall@paylinedata.com) for a complimentary statement comparison.
* Please “like” the [Florida Ambulance Association on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/floridaambulanceassoc/), and share pictures from visits with legislators. When we have a large following, this becomes a powerful tool for advocacy and outreach.

# 2017 FAA Workshop

* Our deepest thanks to Florida Hospital EMS for offering to host the 2017 FAA Workshop, timing permitting.
* The Board suggests that this again take place immediately preceding ClinCon in July in Orlando.
* Please send topic and speaker suggestions to [maa@the-aaa.org](mailto:maa@the-aaa.org).

# Nature Coast Community Paramedicine Grant

* Nature Coast received a grant for a community paramedicine initiative, and has about 20 educational slots open. Please contact Holly Martin ([hollym@naturecoastems.org](mailto:hollym@naturecoastems.org)) if you may be interested.

# EMS Leadership Orientation

* FAA members strongly recommend the state-run EMS Leadership Orientation program for its practical focus and helpful information about getting things done.
* FAA recommends suggesting to the state that the Leadership Orientation include constituency group presidents (ex: President Eismann) on the curriculum so that learners are familiar with what each organization does.

# Next Meeting

* The next membership meeting will take place in January 2017 at Fire East.
* The board will attempt to schedule a Tallahassee Hill Day in conjunction with a future FAA meeting.

# Adjourn