

ORP Through the Years

2017: Hurricane Irma

While there were 33 editions of the Ocean Reef Press in 2017, those that followed the September 10 hurricane were by far the most profound. Following are excerpts and photos from an array of Ocean Reef Press articles that appeared in October and November of 2017 highlighting resilience, along with a support and love for Ocean Reef Club and everything it stands for.

October 6, 2017

Associate Town Hall

The first ever "Associate Town Hall Meeting" was called in an effort to ensure that in the wake of Irma, all Associates felt comforted and appreciated, welcomed and needed. At the opening of the Meeting, Leemhuis recognized the handful that stayed through the hurricane, those that cooked and fed the first responders (and continued to cook 1,500 meals a day), those that came in immediately to begin cleaning and clearing, and those that worked on IT and Communications to keep everyone in touch. He also thanked those that stayed home. Those that wanted to help but were told until conditions were better, there was no way to help.

When photos taken immediately following the storm were shown there were gasps, and then when the progress photos came up, there were oohs and aahs, and hope was breathed back into the room. The most incredible message to this room full of Associates was that their Club's Members cared for them. Evidenced by the Board's decision to continue paying all Associates while the Club is closed, evidenced by the hundreds of emails and calls of support from the Membership, and evidenced



First ever Associate Town Hall meeting.



Associates cleaning up on Buccaneer Island.



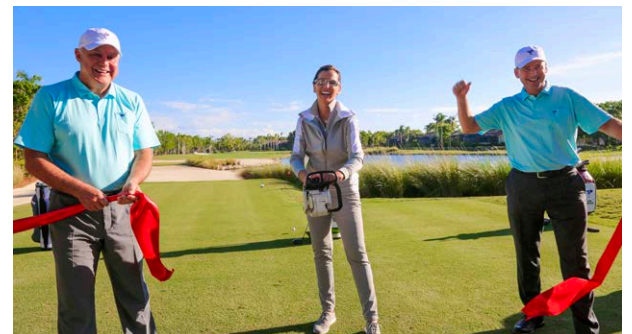
Flag raising at The Point.



Dolphin Fairway #10 immediately following Irma.



Assistance for Associates provided by ORCF.



Teresa Holmes cuts the ribbon with a chainsaw.

“Again, the Membership’s generous support of the separate effort to support hurricane relief specifically for employees of Ocean Reef and the communities they call home – Homestead, Florida City and the Upper Keys – has resulted in and continues to fund numerous meaningful grants.”

by the continued donations to the Club and ORCF. As each of



ORCF's Yuri Mikolay (center) distributes relief funding to community partners.

these encouraging gestures were named, there were heads nodding, applause and smiles across the room. The pride that each and every one of the 720 associates in that room felt united and strengthened them, it is sure to be a season like no other.

ORCF Provides Assistance Team to Help Navigate Claims

Over a recent six-day period, more than 600 Ocean Reef Club Associates, Member employees and ORCA and community staff took advantage of the FEMA Application and a whole

selection of support services and resource referrals brought in by the Ocean Reef Community Foundation at the Club's HR Training Center. Grocery store gift cards were provided through the Club and ORCA to those employees who worked during and immediately following Hurricane Irma. Urgent financial support is also currently being provided to ORC and ORCA Associates to help with expenses ranging from car repairs and insurance deductibles to providing bridge loans until insurance money

ORP Through the Years

Continued from | 26

comes through. All of these services were made possible by the generosity of Ocean Reef Club Members.

October 27, 2017 Reclaiming The Point

Over the past 6 weeks, milestones have been set with every restaurant re-opening, fitness class and tennis match. Our memories and stories have a hard stop now, before Irma and after Irma. For many, there is also "during Irma." On Tuesday, October 17, 2017, Chairman of the Board **Teresa Holmes** and Club President Michael Leemhuis invited Members to join them in honoring those Club Associates that protected Ocean Reef Club during the storm, and mark the occasion with yet another milestone, the raising of the American flag at

The Point.

Chairman of the Board, Teresa Holmes, opened the ceremony by acknowledging the honor she felt to hold the first official gathering since Irma, signifying both a love of country and a love of Ocean Reef Club. As the flag so eloquently represents courage and patriotism, the "Riders of the Storm," those that stayed behind during Irma, also represent courage and a dedication to the Club and community. She said, "These brave souls volunteered to stay as a Category 5 hurricane approached. Their presence was essential to both keeping us safe and assessing the damage immediately following when no one else could access Ocean Reef, or any of the Florida Keys." Mrs. Holmes then invited two of the "Riders," Vice President of Club Operations John Lyberger and Director of Security Sonny Vasquez to raise the flag commending both for their

leadership throughout the Hurricane.

Riders of the storm: *Diana Dardio, John Dardio, Jean Desir, Nelson Gomes, Anthony Harris, Ebomme Jean Baptiste, John Lyberger, John O'Donnell, Joel Perez, Jesus Quinones, George Richards and Sonny Vasquez.*

Hurricane Aftermath & Generosity Both Overwhelming

At the beginning of October, our Community Foundation announced a \$500,000 match donation challenge by an anonymous ORC family to create a hurricane relief fund specifically to benefit hard-hit Monroe County beyond the Club's gates. So, the new Ocean Reef Community Foundation Florida Keys Hurricane Recovery Fund was created.

And with the generosity of several other ORC member families, the match challenge goal was exceeded in less than a week. This new Ocean Reef Community Foundation Fund

now has over \$1.2 million pledged for Keys-wide relief efforts and it continues to grow with individual and matching donations.

November 3, 2017 Staying "the Course"

Incredibly, through the efforts of the Club's Board and management and the tremendous work of the Golf Course Maintenance team and Golf Professionals, in just seven short weeks the Hammock Course reopened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a field of 95 golfers for the first, and only, Irma Invitational. Chairman of the Board **Teresa Holmes** inspired the group by pointing out an important occasion that is being documented, "We are making history at this very moment. Our recovery and the wonderful spirit that has come Post-Irma will be one of the most dramatic chapters we write."