



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*Julie McCulloch
President, SIPOA
Board of Directors*

I'd like to use my President's letter this month to give special recognition and thanks to the unsung heroes of the SIPOA staff and our contractor security team who went above-and-beyond in preparing our island for a potential visit from Hurricane Florence.

While property owners began clear-

ing garages and decks or stocking up supplies, our staff jumped into "hurricane protocol" actions to minimize the potential impact from a storm. Almost immediately, daily meetings and conference calls were held with the Town and Club to coordinate communication efforts and evacuation plans.

The maintenance team started lowering water levels in the lakes and lagoons to accommodate additional rainfall. Sail shades at the Lake House were removed and stored. 3-phase power equipment at the Lake House was turned off to protect from power surges. Sandbags were installed at the Gatehouse and computer equipment relocated to prevent potential water damage. Barricades were put up in the barcode lane to route all traffic to the inside lane.

Pool furniture was put away. Calls were made to landscaping contractors and debris removal companies so Seabrook Island would be first on a response list. Extra dumpsters were brought in for people who were emptying refrigerators and other debris. Portable pump station generators were moved into position, fueled and

tested. Extra yard debris bags were purchased for property owner use after the storm.

Pre-storm communications ramped up with daily noon SIPOA e-blasts. In addition, SIPOA supplemented the Town's efforts by sending out their updates via our e-blasts. Tidelines editors (who are all volunteer property owners!) regularly sent out information on hurricane preparedness tips, important phone numbers and helpful websites. Our staff contacted property management companies to ensure they were communicating with island visitors.

Our new security contractor, Norred & Associates, rose to the challenge as well. Officers volunteered for round-the-clock duty to secure the gate and patrol the island, sleeping on cots at the Lake House. A special shout-out to Officers Antonio Middleton, Dontan Matthews, Demario Ford and Sean Lopez for their great efforts! Norred's site security manager, Mike Whitlow, spent very long hours on the island as well and was in frequent contact with SIPOA and the Charleston County Sheriff's office. Norred & Associates

also stationed 12 officers from other locations in an Augusta hotel, ready to deploy. Their helicopter was on standby to bring the officers to the island, along with additional supplies if needed.

Once preparations were complete, everyone moved into "waiting mode", while continuing with communications and daily telephone briefings with the Town regarding the storm's forecast and plans for return/recovery. And when the Florence passed, they were on the island almost immediately to begin damage assessments and provide "eyes-on-the-ground" information.

Blessedly, Florence chose to miss our beautiful island. But thanks to the efforts of these unsung heroes, we were as ready as we could be. Unfortunately, our 13 SIPOA employees have had way too much experience with hurricane preparations over the last few years. Like everyone, it's a stressful time for them as they work to secure their families and property. Yet they do this while making it their mission to keep us all safe as well. We owe them, and our friends at Norred & Associates, a huge debt of gratitude!▲

**KNOW THE
RULES !**

Thank you for your help in maintaining the cleanliness and quality of The Lake House Fitness Center by following the rules below:

- Wipe down equipment after each use.
- Return weights to the racks provided. Do not drop or throw weights.
- Children 15 and under MUST be under the direct supervision (within arm's reach) of an adult.
- Closed-toe athletic shoes are required.
- Shirts must be worn at all times. Swimsuits are not acceptable attire in the fitness center.