



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES: 03/19/26 Zoom

The following members were in attendance:

Ian Montgelas	Martin County	President
A.J. Miller	Volusia County	Secretary
Phil Wotton	Delray Beach	Treasurer
Matt Sparling	Miami-Dade County	Advisor
Austin Turnbull	Navarre Beach	VP North
Chet Brown	Manatee County	VP West
Jonathon Billings	Indian River	
Marshall Green	Manatee County	
Gerry Falconer	Miami Beach (Retired)	
Michael Patterson	Manatee County	
Morgan Harmon	St. Lucie County	
Andrea Moreira	Pinellas County	
James McCrady	Hallandale Beach	
Jo Wagenhals	Pompano Beach (Retired)	
Maureen Abeita	Destin Beach	
John Meskiel	Palm Beach County	
Eisen Wicher	Brevard County	
Jason Casanova	Miami Beach	
Patrick Brafford	Clearwater Beach	

The following Lifetime Members were in attendance on Zoom:

Breck Ballou	Fort Lauderdale (Retired)
Bob Maler	

The following guests were in attendance:

Austin Heimark	Surflife Coastal Intelligence
Will Taromina	Watchtower

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Call to order at 11:04am by President Montgelas.

Approval of February minutes. Motion by Jo Wagenhals, seconded by Gerry Falconer.
Minutes Approved.

Communications

Marc Fichtner is unable to attend
Austin Heimark is presenting from Surflife Coastal Intelligence
Will Taormina is presenting on Watchtower
Glen Morris, retired Chief of Dania Beach, recently passed



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Officer Reports

Ian Montgelas, President-

- Digital advertising up and running
 - Adds will be running through Instagram and Facebook
- April meeting at Water Safety Products we will distribute beach conditions flags

Phil Wotton, Treasurer-

- Statement Balance February 27, 2026 \$6,447.82
-
- March Income
 - Escambia County \$125
 - South Walton Fire District \$200
 - Plate & Coin sales \$50
 - City of Clearwater \$200
 - Maureen Abeita, coin sales via Zelle \$20
 - Destin Fire District, Robert Anderson membership \$125
 - Escambia County, plates & coins \$90
- March Expenses
 - \$0.00

Matt Sparling, Advisor-

- Saw social media add on his phone

A.J. Miller, Secretary-

- 30 out of 32 coastal county agencies have been contacted for the Rip Current Simulator

South

Jason Casanova: Miami Beach- Not in Attendance

John Guscott: Hollywood Beach – Not in Attendance

Mike Huck: Dania Beach – Not in Attendance

Mark Beaudreau: Pompano – Not in Attendance

Mike Brown: Deerfield- Not in Attendance



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Alex Bagwell: Fort Lauderdale – Not in Attendance

Jim McCrady: Hallandale Beach

- Couple new jetskis
- Can-am ATVs holding up
- Looking at a new patrol truck
- Just lost 2 FTE to other agencies leaving 2 vacancies

Mathew Sparling-Miami-Dade County-

- Swim test for 2 vacancies, 8 tested and passed

CENTRAL

Mark Fitchner: Lantana Beach, Central VP-

- Teaching and certifying all town employees in Red Cross Stop the Bleed.
- Working with PD and a videographer to make an Ocean Rescue Recruitment Video

John Meskiel: Palm Beach County-

- Multiagency training for rescue swimmer deployment in high surf
- Just completed agency wide advanced airway training
 - Radio channel training
 - Electronic reporting training
 - Started FEMA ICS training
- Promoted 4 LTs
- Released 3 employees that did not pass probationary period
- 10 FTE vacancies
 - Currently have 8 applicants
- Converted 10 PTE into 5 FTEs
 - Have asked for 18 new FTEs
- Approved for new Motorola radios

Doug Yoakum: Lake Worth – Not in Attendance

Phil Wotton: Delray Beach-

- Dredging project underway. Just over halfway completed.
- Shelling event continues in Anchor Park, associated with the dredging project.
- Spring Break w/ pleasant crowds



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Ian Montgelas -Martin County

- Renourishment project
- Starting process for replacing Bosch tower

Clint Tracy: Boca Raton VP Central– Unable to Attend

Tom Mahady: Boynton Beach – Not in Attendance

Morgan Harmon: St. Lucie County –

- Fully staffed
- Spring Break in full effect
- Using mutual aid channels to contact PD

Jonathn Billings: Indian River County –

- Nothing to report

Nathan Rieck: Vero Beach – Not in Attendance

Ken Keaton: John's Island – Not in Attendance

Helena Khoshnevis: Breakers – Not in Attendance

North

Jessica Earl: St. Johns County VP North- Not in Attendance

Maxwell Ervanian: Jacksonville Beach – Not in Attendance

Tom Gillin: Flagler Beach – Not in Attendance

Eisen Witcher: Brevard County –

- 50% decrease for FTEs
- Looking at attempting to increase pay
- Fire union looking to move ocean rescue under their contract
- Accepted grant to implement Watchtower



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A.J. Miller: Volusia-

- Working on striking a contract with Surfline for coastal cameras and data collection
- Spring break is in full effect
 - Having issues getting vehicles off the beach in New Smyrna due to dredging lines buried at the base of the approaches
- Pricing out two surveyor towers
- Joint exercise for pediatric drowning in the intercoastal between Beach Safety, Ponce Fire, Volusia Sheriff Air 1 (med helicopter), Volusia County
- 25 recruits in spring class
- 4 FTE vacancies
 - Hiring 1 and a sergeant
- Working on Nationals submission

Panhandle

Austin Turnbull: Navarre Beach VP Panhandle –

- Conducted lifeguard development course
- Training on surfski and surfboat
- Getting prepared for the season

Joethan Phillips: Gulf Shores- Not in Attendance

Maureen Abieta: Destin Beach:

- Getting ready to put agency back in service
- First USLA class starting Saturday, March 14
 - Second class starts spring break
- Currently holding off in Beach Safety Director position
 - Currently being overseen by Fire Battalion Chief

Rich Huffnegale: Okaloosa County – Not in Attendance

David Vaughan: South Walton Fire District – Not in Attendance

Dave Greenwood: Escambia County – Not in Attendance

Daryl Paul: Panama City Beach- Not in Attendance

Dustin Mazsden: Bay County- Not in Attendance

Colin Perlaky: South Walton- Not in Attendance



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West Coast

Chet Brown: Manatee VP West via Marshall Green–

- Preparing for spring break
- 2 vacancies with 10 applicants
- Approved for 30-foot Contender

Greg Rose: Sarasota County- Not in Attendance

- Working on leadership changes

Patrick Bradford: Clearwater Beach –

- Busy preparing for spring break

Andrea Moreira: Pinellas County –

- Looking to see if this will be the last season
 - Only 5 employees returning
- Need strong team in Fort De Soto
- Will have response truck this year
- Will have three 4x4 response trucks this season
- 25 PTE vacancies

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

USLA Update

Stats for certifications were due March 13, 2026

Tuesday March 31, SER membership meeting, Zoom to follow

USLA spring BOD in April, Biloxi, Mississippi

Surfing Florida has an exhibit opening May 2nd, South end of West Palm

Old Business

None

Open Forum

Austin Heimark from Surfline Coastal Intelligence presented on coastal camera data for beach erosion, recreation data collection.

Will Taormina presented on the benefits of data collection and agency organization through Watchtower.



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New Business

Discussions to allow Gulf Shores, Alabama as part of the FBPCA

There is a professional supporting member category in the bylaws

Section 11 of the bylaws read by Ian Monteglas

Austin Turnbull makes a motion to add Gulf Shores as a Professional Supporting Member, seconded by Jo Wagenhals **MPU**

Discussion

Social Media Update

- Digital Marketing campaign ready
 - Still time to send over location and timeframe
- A Facebook account was created for FBPCA
 - Posts still need to be linked
- Chiefs' Spotlight is still bringing in about 15-30 new followers per month
 - average engagement per bi-weekly spotlight is about 3k-5k views.

Swim Near a Lifeguard Campaign

- Wagenhals to get with Fichtner
 - She runs the Swim Near a Lifeguard social media pages

Banquet Update-

Start working on sponsorships

Need Submit/Discuss Disposition of Goals 2025 (if time allows)

2026 FBPCA Schedule	
Tuesday, January 27 th , 2026 11 am – 2 pm	Manatee County <i>*BPOY Presentation*</i>
February 20 th , 2026 11 am – 2 pm — CENTRAL TIME	South Walton
Friday, March 13 th , 2026 11 am – 2 pm	ZOOM — Spring Break
Friday, April 10 th , 2026 11 am - 2 pm	Water Safety Products – Palm Bay <i>*Conditions Flag Distribution*</i>
May 1 pm – 4 pm	Location TBD <i>*Banquet*</i>
Friday, June 12 th , 2026 11 am – 2 pm	Fort Lauderdale
July 4 pm – 6 pm	Location TBD <i>*USLA Regionals*</i>
Friday, August 14 th , 2026 11 am – 2 pm	Lantana
Friday, September 25 th , 2026 11 am – 2 pm	Volusia County



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Friday, October 16th, 2026 11 am – 2 pm	Palm Beach County
Wednesday, November 18th, 2026 11am – 2pm	Marsh Landing – Fellsmere
Friday, December 11th, 2026 11 am – 2 pm	Deerfield Beach <i>*Elections*</i>

All dates are tentative and may change please watch for the agendas to be emailed prior to the meeting dates.

Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn A.J. Miller, seconded by Matthew Sparling. Adjourned at 12:46 pm

Next Meeting

Water Safety Products
2330 Commerce Park Dr. NE, #4
Palm Bay, FL 32905

ZOOM
11:00 AM
ZOOM Link

<https://zoom.us/j/99518644767?pwd=eJ0cZPqMCUpvOltXyaTX9xBkPLC33Z.1>