



# FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

## MEETING MINUTES:

09/13/23

### The following members were in attendance:

Matthew Sparling	Miami-Dade County	President
Phil Wotton	Delray Beach	Treasurer
A.J. Miller	Volusia County	Secretary
Jeremy Watkins	St. Johns County	VP North
Aaron Jenkins	Volusia County	
Max Ervanian	Jacksonville Beach	
Chet Brown	Manatee County	

### The following members were in attendance on Zoom:

Ian Montgelas	Martin County	VP Central
Gerry Falconer	Miami Beach	VP South
Andrea Moreira	Pinellas County	
Jason Casanova	Miami Beach	
Marc Fichtner	Lantana Beach	

### The following Lifetime Members were in attendance:

Bob Maler	Miami-Dade (Retired) (Zoom)
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### Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order by Matt Sparling at 1111 hours. Welcome and thanks to everyone for joining.

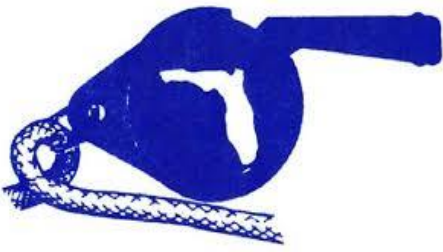
### **Correction to August minutes:**

Gerry Falconer VP South  
Jason Casanova Miami Beach

Motion made to approve minutes from August meeting made by Jeremy Watkins, seconded by Phil Wotton.

### Communications

Alex Bagwell reached out that she could not attend due to holding swim tryouts.  
Breck Ballou reached out, unable to attend.  
Andy Ritchie reached out, unable to attend.  
Rick Welsh reached out, unable to attend.



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Bob Maler thanked Matthew Sparling for his efforts on the billboards. Wanted it noted that two years ago, the organization was paying out of pocket. Phil Wotton brought in a news article of Rob Caldwell's paddleout.

## Officer Reports

### **Matt Sparling President-**

- Billboard and grants have been submitted
- Organization wanted to see where the money was going prior to disbursement
- Pan Handle billboards and movie theaters turned down. Any other print material turned down
- Approved \$25,000 for flags from Water Safety Products
- \$30,000 for airport baggage now running for 4 months duration instead of one (March, April, May, and June)
- \$120,000 for billboards for three months. On billboard at Beach Express way for entire year.
- \$176,000 up for approval with board, up from \$120,000
- 2 of the 8 baggage claim are in Destin and Panama

### **Miami-Dade County-**

- 13 new FTE
- Created 4 relief spots with no assignments during the week, 8 on the weekend
- Miami-Dade lifeguards complained to mayor's office about hot working conditions (looking into doubling tower staff, battery powered fans, solar power, car batteries, extra breaks)
- 3rd round of first responder checks being completed from the states \$\$\$\$ 1,000 for each employee

### **Joe Westerman Advisor – Not in Attendance**

#### **Phil Wotton: Treasurer**

Statement Balance August 31, 2023 \$912.51

#### September Income

City of Ft Lauderdale \$125

Volusia County \$125

Gerry Falconer \$200

August Expenses Maui Lifeguard Association \$287.50

#### Banquet Outstanding:

Paragon Marine

Florida Open Water

USLA SER



# FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

## **Delray Beach-**

- One vacant full-time position.
- Contract year for Delray. Waiting on final approval from city commission.
- Swim area buoys & handicap wheelchair boxes removed from beach in anticipation of large surf from hurricane offshore.

**A.J. Miller: Secretary** – Planning on getting out the minutes closer to the end of monthly meeting. I have been getting media questions in reference to what Volusia is doing to get the water safety message out to visitors. I've been answering with the billboard and baggage claim program with this organization.

## **SOUTH**

### **Gerry Falconer: Miami Beach VP South –**

- Reached out to other beaches in region
- Lauderdale is looking for FTE and PTE
- Casey Francis is representing at ISRC
- EMS put together under Jason Casanova
- Will be testing all staff throughout the month

### **Jason Casanova: Miami Beach –**

- Open PTE until October 2
- Communications department put together a recruiting video
- BLS/EMS protocols updated and testing entire agency on new guidelines
- Sent drone protocols to Martin County

**Marcos Fernandez: City of Miami (not Miami Beach) – Not in Attendance**

**Alex Bagwell: Fort Lauderdale- Not in Attendance**

**Jim McCrady: Hallandale Beach – Not in Attendance**

## **CENTRAL**

**Clint Tracy: Boca Raton VP Central– Not in attendance**

**Phil Wotton: Delray Beach – Gave Report under Treasurers report.**

**Tom Mahady: Boynton Beach – Not in Attendance**



# FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

**Ian Montgelas: Martin County –**

- Incoming swell
- 3 FTE short
- Just hired one on-call and one FTE
- Will be opening another round of hiring
- Looking at options outside of Honda, potentially Mule

**Andy Ritchie: St. Lucie County – Not in Attendance**

**Johnathan Billings: Indian River County – Advised he could not attend. Nothing to report.**

**Nathan Rieck: Vero Beach – Not in Attendance**

**Ken Keaton: John's Island - Not in Attendance**

**Helena Khoshnevis: Breakers – Not in Attendance**

**Marc Fichtner: Lantana Beach-**

- Fully staffed for first time in 3 years
- Seeing swell
- Potentially fixing beach ramp for emergency response (ATV)
- Looking at IRB program for unguarded beaches
- Looking at memorial competition for Rob Caldwell (potentially extended iron)

## North

**Jeremy Watkins: St. Johns County VP North–**

- Transitions into post season time
- Seasonal towers ended Labor Day, patrols only
- Patrols for a month past labor day
- Planning budget for next year
- Approved for four FTE, currently 3 plus Jeremy's multi year temporary position.
- New county administrators see the need for a larger full time staff. Goal is 12 FTE
- Busy summer with somber ending. Drowning last day of summer in state park. Another drowning in unguarded area in state park.
- Received their first side by side this past summer. October, second side by side approved

**Stephen Fender: Brevard County – Not in Attendance**

**Andrew Ethridge: Volusia County – Not in Attendance**



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## **Aaron Jenkins: Volusia County-**

- Lost personnel from transition
- 10 drownings this year
- Cut 15 FTEs after transition
- Recorded water rescue that we will make a training video from
- Prepping for incoming surf from Lee

## **Maxwell Ervanian: Jacksonville Beach –**

- Year-round services
- Struggling with staffing
- Building a stronger marine unit
- Researching a RIB program
- Looking at input to keep employees engaged in training

## **Tom Gillin: Flagler Beach – Not in Attendance**

### **Panhandle**

## **Will Spivey: Panama City Beach VP Panhandle – Not in Attendance**

## **Joe DAgostino: Destin Beach – Not in Attendance**

## **Rich Huffnegale: Okaloosa County – Not in Attendance**

## **David Vaughan: South Walton Fire District – Not in Attendance**

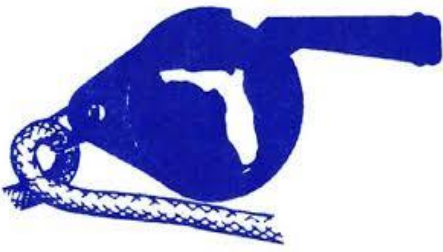
## **Austin Turnbull: Navarre – Not in Attendance**

## **Dave Greenwood: Pensacola – Not in Attendance**

### **West Coast**

## **Rick Hinkson: Sarasota County – Not in Attendance**

## **Patrick Bradford: Clearwater Beach – Not in Attendance**



# FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

## **Chet Brown: Manatee County –**

- Fully staffed
- 3 guard towers closed due to beach erosion from Hurricane Idalia
- EMT Lifeguards getting credentialed through our EMS division. They are all certified from the State of Florida. We have them going through Manatee County's EMT training.
- Working on our new responsibilities during storm activations. We are now responsible for Manatee County's Beach and Water rescues during emergency activations.

## **Andrea Moreira: Pinellas County –**

- Closed for the season
- October they will do research on what the agency will look like next year
- Looking for longevity from employees
- Needing trainers for new employees
- Took lifeguards to EOC for introductions, to show their worth during emergencies
- Working to get staff out into the public eye
- County leadership having side meetings to discuss either eliminating agency or building a fulltime staff
- Looking for outside help at commission meeting to speak on the importance of having lifeguards

## **DISPOSITION OF BILLS**

No new items

## **USLA Update**

- Team has traveled to South Padre Island for ISRC

## **New Business**

- New member voting in: Chet Brown, Manatee County and Jason Casanova, Miami Beach
- Getting more people involved
- Attendance at National Meeting
- Getting Jacksonville into the Southeast Region
- October meeting is an election meeting
  - Board position interest should be sent to Joe McManus and CC Alan Holt
  - Nominations can still be made from the floor

## **Billboard Update –**

See President's report



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## **Banquet Update-**

- Banquet location tabled for October meeting
- Potential Dates May 17-18, May 24-25
- Honoring founding fathers at the 2024 banquet (December 1983 inception)
- Discussions for location
- Submissions for awards need to be in by November meeting

## **Need submit Discuss Disposition of Goals 2023 (if time allows)**

~~FBPCA Coins are still available to be purchased~~

Here is a DRAFT Schedule for 2023 – If anyone would like to host a meeting let us know.

2023 Meeting Schedule	
January 13th, 2023	Miami-Dade County - Haulover
February 7 <sup>th</sup> @11-2	Martin County
March 24th 11-1	Zoom
April 21st 11-2	Manatee County
May 5 <sup>h</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> @1-4pm	Orlando --- 2022 Lifesaving Awards Banquet & Educational Conference
June 14 <sup>th</sup> 11-2	Ft. Lauderdale
July 18 <sup>th</sup> 2-4	Delray Beach
August 22 <sup>nd</sup> 11-2	Zoom
September 13th	St. Johns County
October 13th 10-1 CT	FBPCA 10-1 & USLA Ser 1-5 combined. Panama Beach
November 15 <sup>th</sup> 11-2	Marsh Landing
December 8 <sup>th</sup> 11-2**	Deerfield Beach

## **Meeting Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 1329 by A.J. Miller. Seconded by Jeremy Watkins

## **Next meeting**

Next meeting October 13<sup>th</sup>, Panama Beach.  
Remember, they are on central time.