



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES: 06/20/25 Martin County

The following members were in attendance:

Ian Montgelas	Martin County	President
Phil Wotton	Delray Beach	Treasurer
A.J. Miller	Volusia County	Secretary

The following Members were in attendance on Zoom:

Rick Hinkson	Sarasota	VP West
Colin Perlaky	South Walton Fire	
Andrea Moreira	Pinellas County	
Jim McCrady	Hallandale Beach	
Jonathon Billings	Indian River County	
Matt Sparling	Miami-Dade County	
Chet Brown	Manatee County	

The following Lifetime Members were in attendance:

Breck Ballou	Fort Lauderdale (Retired) (Zoom)
Bob Maler	Miami-Dade (Retired) (Zoom)
Jo Wagenhals	Pompano Beach (Retired) (Zoom)
Tom Fogan	Fort Lauderdale (Retired)

The following guests were in attendance:

Chief Montoya	Martin County Fire
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Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Call to order at 1103. Motion to approve May minutes by Miller, seconded by Wagenhals. Minutes approved.

Communications

Malphurs and Jenkins unable to attend
Morgan Harmon unable to attend
Fichtner unable to attend
Austin Turnbull unable to attend, sent minutes
Chief Casanova unable to attend



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Officer Reports

Ian Montgelas President-

- Looking to narrow down “Swim Near a Lifeguard” campaign
 - Starting to move away from billboards

Matt Sparling Advisor:

- Grant submittals are due by September
- Need to make a decision today

Phil Wotton Treasurer:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| • Statement Balance May 30, 2025 | \$10,156.67 |
| • May Income | |
| USLA SER | \$2,321.19 |
| Gerry Falconer | \$100.00 |
| • May Expenses | |
| Action Awards | \$1,056 |
| SM Kinane Corporation | \$1,114.78 |
| Florida Hotel | \$4,113.57 |
| Florida Hotel | \$414.03 |
- Zoom Account, transfer account rights to either the President or Secretary.
 - USLA Training Officer Academy – Write check to USLA SER for \$5,000

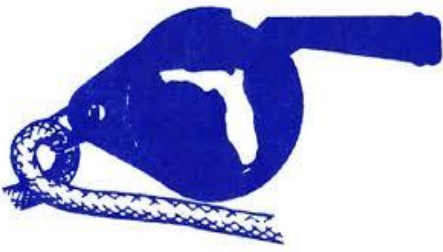
A.J. Miller: Secretary –

- Taking over Zoom account

SOUTH

Jason Casanova: Miami Beach, South VP Sparling–

- 50 percent vacancy
 - Hiring freeze on all nonessential staff
 - Had to cancel JG program
 - Creating multiple complaints from parents
- Have 22 applicants for recruit class
- Looking at 10 percent budget cut
- Potentially reopening negotiations to remove 4% COLA
- After hours drowning on Father’s Day at the jetty
- 4th for the year after 7pm
- First Ocean Man open water swim in November 14-16
 - Haulover Beach
 - 5K and 10K options
- Dealing with offshore reef planning



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Joel Fernandez: Miami – Not in Attendance

Alex Bagwell: Fort Lauderdale- Not in Attendance

Gio Serrano: Fort Lauderdale – Not in Attendance

Jim McCrady: Hallandale Beach –

- Approved for two additional FTE
 - Bringing them to 8
 - Hired new LT
 - Now staffing beach with 70 percent FTE, moving from 46 percent previously
- Read email from Lifeguards Without Borders
 - reference a survey to be sent out reference critical incident exposure

Ramo Cline: Hollywood Beach – Not in Attendance

Mike Huck: Dania Beach – Not in Attendance

Pete McGinnis: Pompano – Not in Attendance

Mike Brown: Deerfield- Not in Attendance

Tom Fogan: Fort Lauderdale – Not in Attendance

Luis Andrade: – Miami-Dade County – Not in Attendance

CENTRAL

Mark Fitchner: Lantana Beach, Central VP- Unable to Attend

John Meskiel: Palm Beach County- Not in Attendance

Doug Yoakum: Lake Worth – Not in Attendance

Phil Wotton: Delray Beach-

- Division Chief's office temporarily relocated to Fire Rescue Headquarters
- One PT & one FT employee has resigned.
- Second FT employee submitted resignation for September 26th.
- Attempted to reclassify eight vacant PT positions to two FT. Effort failed.
- Job posting presently for one FT position and eight PT positions.



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Ian Montgelas -Martin County

- Frogman swim on June 21
- New hire starting on 08/11
 - Will bring them to fully staffed
- Received grant money from Surfing's Preservation and Foundation
- 4K for PA systems on side by sides
- Successful CodeX on Father's Day
 - 15-year-old child was found, in good spirits, on his boogie board about 1 mile off shore

Clint Tracy: Boca Raton VP Central– Not in Attendance

Tom Mahady: Boynton Beach – Not in Attendance

Morgan Harmon: St. Lucie County –

Jonathn Billings: Indian River County –

- Fully staffed
- Working on updating SOP

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

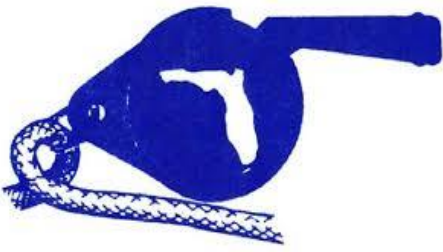
Jeremy Watkins: St. Johns– Not in Attendance

Maxwell Ervanian: Jacksonville Beach – Not in Attendance

Tom Gillin: Flagler Beach – Not in Attendance

Sam Swor: Brevard County- No in Attendance

Eisen Witcher: Brevard County – Not in Attendance



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Tamra Malphurs: Volusia County– Unable to Attend

A.J. Miller: Volusia-

- Dredging project in full swing
 - 5 mile stretch of beach Ponce Inlet north
- 5 Vacancies
 - Interviews soon
- 54 PTE hired
- Will be interviewing for a Community Relations and Digital Media Coordinator
- Rotating full-time staff for lunches to put more part-timers to open towers

Aaron Jenkins: Volusia County- Unable to Attend

Panhandle

Austin Turnbull: Navarre Beach VP Panhandle – Unable to Attend

Joethan Phillips: Gulf Shores- Not in Attendance

Joe D’Agostino: Destin Beach – Not in Attendance

Rich Huffnegale: Okaloosa County – Not in Attendance

David Vaughan: South Walton Fire District – Not in Attendance

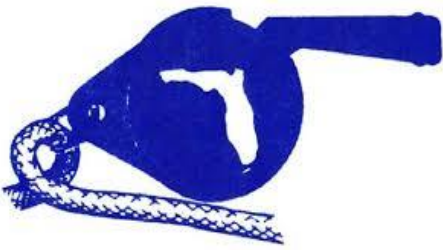
Dave Greenwood: Escambia County –

Daryl Paul: Panama City Beach-

Dustin Mazsden: Bay County- Not in Attendance

Colin Perlaky: South Walton-

- Survivor’s Day put on by the local hospital
 - Get together with caretakers to share stories
 - Had staff involved
- Was able to add 4th tower in Water’s Sounds on June 10th
- Received 4 new Tacomas
- Had cardiac code this week on an unguarded beach
 - ROSC
- Responded to a broken neck in small surf at unguarded beach
 - Still alive, unknown status
- 4 members utilizing workman’s comp due to rescue boards
 - Mentioned potentially cutting two FTE to pay for insurance



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- Hiring for 5 vacancies
 - Would put them fully staffed for FTE
- JG program 3 days for 3 weeks

West Coast

Rick Hinkson: Sarasota County VP- Unable to Attend

- Fully staffed
- LT position was filled externally
- Working on EVOG training with Fire
- EMT class fell through due to private school closing
 - Working through medical director for solution
- Next week's JG camp is full with a waiting list
- Sending a team for Regionals
 - Couple D1 heavy hitters
- Looking at budget cuts
- TDT Funding in Sarasota County will now include lifeguarding

Chet Brown: Manatee –

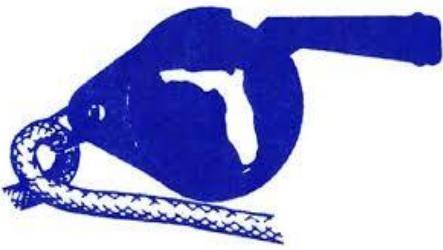
- 2 open positions with 5 tryouts next week
- Was approved two more FTE
 - No longer hiring PTE
- Moving towards all lifeguards EMT
- Sending a team to regionals this year
 - 4 quality lifeguards
- EMT staff is currently going through swift water training with fire
- Signing MOU with task force teams for statewide response
- Receiving highwater vehicle soon
- Vision is to expand responsibilities of lifeguards to create more value in times of need
- Added two roving patrols to areas managed by the city
- 15 percent increase in visitors in the month of May

Patrick Bradford: Clearwater Beach – Not in Attendance

- Finished 2 weeks of JG
- Completed 4 new towers for deployment

Andrea Moreira: Pinellas County –

- Fully recovered after hurricanes
- Repaired 4 towers
- Ready to move for year-round and was squashed at the last minute



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- Lost one park as well
- 12 returning lifeguards
 - Most already in public safety (medic, EMT, nurse)
- Fort DeSoto is only operating Thursday through Sunday
- Advocating for a flag specifically for high bacteria levels
 - Volusia used Department of Health signs
 - Martin County uses double red flag
- Increase in flying umbrella trauma
- Has had multiple medical emergencies
- After hours drowning in intercoastal waterways

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

Concurrent Resolution 41

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-concurrent-resolution/41/all-info>

Please see attached the recently passed **House Bill 7031** for the state of Florida. This is now state law. I have highlighted the important section of note below, but for reference, see pages 8 and 9 on the attached document.

125.0104 Tourist development tax; procedure for levying; authorized uses; referendum; enforcement.—

(5) AUTHORIZED USES OF REVENUE.—

(a) All tax revenues received pursuant to this section by a county imposing the tourist development tax shall be used by that county for the following purposes only:

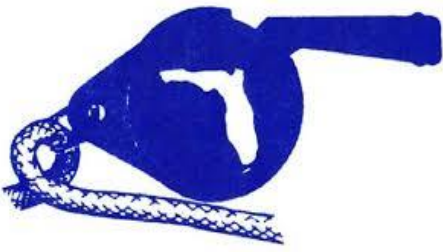
7. To employ, train, equip, insure, or otherwise fund the provision of lifeguards certified by the American Red Cross, the Y.M.C.A., or an equivalent nationally recognized aquatic training program, for beaches on the Gulf of America or the Atlantic Ocean

USLA Update

Regionals is ready to go

Schedules for adults and JG are posted on the USLA website

Old Business



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New Business

- How are we going to us the 5K grant for the Training Officer Academy?
- Class is \$400
 - They need to be a USLA member and purchase an up-to-date book
- Suggested limitation of 1 person per agency for 12 covered in the grant
- Must be working for a state of Florida agency
- Resumes due by September 1 for review at September meeting
 - Now accepting applications for the USLA SER Training Officer Academy
 - Class tentatively 12/15-12/19
 - Emails to be sent to Beach Chiefs' thread and USLA Membership list

How can we improve the banquet?

- Venue
 - Special outing
 - Live stream for attendance
 - BPOTY has the option to host the banquet
-
- Swim Near a Lifeguard campaign
 - PSA, social media campaign
 - Geotargeting
 - Digital advertising (QR codes)
 - Hotel and beach partners
 - Messaging on hotel television
 - Sparling potentially committee chair for geotargeting
 - Looking at a timeframe of August for research
 - Maler suggested getting a water friendly influencer
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- Maler stated Ian did a great job at the banquet
-
- Maler spoke about after hours drowning in Lauderdale
 - Father drowned trying to keep his 10-year-old alive
 - Daughter was saved by good Samaritan
 - Outcome could have been different if they had a floatation device
-
- Please email webmaster@USLA.org for memberships prior to regionals

Banquet Update-

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



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Open Forum

Here is a DRAFT Schedule for 2025 –

2025 Meeting Schedule	
January 6 th @ 11-2	Navarre Beach
February 12 th @11-2	Miami-Dade County (Haulover)
March 12 th 11-2	Zoom – Spring Break
April 18 th 11-2	Water Safety Products – Palm Bay
May 17 th 1pm-4pm	Florida Hotel, Orlando --- <i>2025 Lifesaving Awards Banquet & Chief's Meeting</i>
June 20 th 11-2	Martin County
July 22 nd 4-6	Volusia. Hardrock Hotel (918 N Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach)
August 20 th 11-2	Fort Lauderdale
September 12 th 11-2	Lantana
October 17 th 11-2	Manatee County/Sarasota
November 12 th 11-2	Marsh Landing
December 12 th 11-2	Deerfield Beach

Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Wotton, seconded by Miller. Adjourned at 1410.

Next Meeting

Volusia County
918 N. Atlantic Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL
4:00 PM
ZOOM Link

<https://zoom.us/j/92729466074?pwd=w55nVlcH0ntc35aNHlWHQ9NdzdT4Un.1>