



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES: 08/20/25 Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center

The following members were in attendance:

Name Ian Montgelas	Martin County	President
Marc Fichtner	Lantana Marine Safety	VP Central
Jessica Earl	St. Johns County	VP North
Jonathan Billing	Indian River County	
Alex Bagwell	Fort Lauderdale	
Cyrus Writer	Dania Beach	
John Guscott	Hollywood Beach	
Morgan Harmoon	St. Lucie County	
Mark Beaudreau	Pompano Beach	

The following Members were in attendance on Zoom:

Austin Turnbull	Navarre Beach	VP Panhandle
Chet Brown	Manatee County	VP South
Jason Cassanova	Miami Beach	VP South
John Meskel	Palm Beach County	
Ramo Kline	Hollywood Beach	
Jim Mcrady-	Hallandale Beach	

The following Lifetime Members were in attendance:

Jo Wagenhals	Pompano Beach (Retired)
Bob Maler	Miami-Dade (Retired)
Gerry Falconer	Miami Beach (Retired)
Breck Ballou	Fort Lauderdale (Retired)

The following guests were in attendance:

Tyler Anderson	International Lifeguard Critical Incident
Chief Pingol	Deputy Chief Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue
Captain Rose/Captain Linard	Sarasota
Maureen (Mo)	Destin Beach (Zoom)

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Call to order at 11am. Motion to approve July minutes by Ian Montgelas, seconded by Jo Wagenhals. Minutes approved.

Communications

Tyler Anderson- President on International Lifeguard Critical Incident Response Critical Incident Stress Response, assess how critical incident stress management works with lifeguards. Pilot teams in each state train people who can work across agencies.

Ian Montgelas- Swim Near a Lifeguard Campaign Billboards-Passed out picture of the impact on the state. Discussed email from the you-safe demonstration. Reaching out to different organizations for robotic rescue device testing at beaches.



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Chief Pingol Fort Lauderdale Deputy Chief Fire Rescue- Gratitude for Ocean Rescue and talking about biggest asset to integrating ocean rescue into fire department at Fort Lauderdale. Talked about how the response times for major incidents on the water for ocean rescue has been much faster for critical incident response. Talked about dual roles in the future for ocean rescue/firefighters. Integrating fire and Ocean Rescue together.

Gerry Falconer- News of drownings up and down coast, talking about closing beaches. Talked about extending hours and keeping lifeguards on the beach. Specifically in New Jersey, Belmar and Seaside Heights.

John Meskiel- Talking about news being on him about beach closures to include peanut island. Don't have the staffing to keep certain beaches open. Even with new positions, cannot open certain parks, even after drownings.

Bob Mahler- Talked about not having the budget to have people stay an extra hour after closure to prevent beach drownings. Figuring out certain days to have people for the extra time when lifeguards are off shift. Talking about holiday weekends being open later as a start. Passing out the surf lifesaving banquet pamphlets for those who didn't attend.

Voted Mark Beaudreau into the Association

Officer Reports

Ian Montgelas President-

- Received two applications for training officer academy USLA. Due date September 1st.
- Progress on 2026 "Swim Near a Lifeguard" campaign
 - Quotes for pamphlets and flags
- Choosing advertising agency for digital advertising agency
 - Three quotes already acquired
 - Also quote from clear channel for 1 year around billboard
 - Getting less grant money as whole this year
 - Looking at about 100,000 for digital advertising
- Possibility of not approving training officer academy again could be one and done year
 - Putting in proposal for grant money by the end of the month

Matt Sparling Advisor:

- Accolades to Ian for doing well as the president with marketing campaigns and website

Phil Wotton Treasurer: Unable to Attend

A.J. Miller: Secretary – Unable to Attend



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SOUTH

Jason Casanova: Miami Beach, South VP–

- Filling one of the full timers
 - Lost full timer due to drug screening
 - Adding more part time staff until military lifeguard gets back from duty
- “Taking Care of Your Own” course was taken by staff
 - Covers how to give message to family and loved ones if a member of staff is lost in line of duty.

Joel Fernandez: Miami – Not in Attendance

Alex Bagwell: Fort Lauderdale-

- Hosting Nationals next year

Gio Serrano: Fort Lauderdale – Not in Attendance

Jim McCrady: Hallandale Beach –

- Back to being fully staffed
 - Towers are filled
- A few predatory marine animal attacks, shark attack on border between Hallandale and Hollywood
 - Another bite few days ago, possible other shark attack was possible

Ramo Cline: Hollywood Beach –

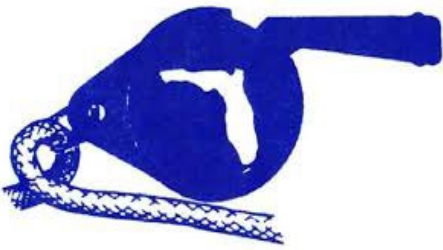
Still a little short staffed, two new lifeguards started
Started with 1000 mermaid's project.

John Guscott:

- Employee retention is still an issue
 - Still losing some people to Miami
- Artificial reefs are putting a lot of strain on lifeguards
 - City is proposing exclusion buoys at 100 yards off, lifeguards don't want this, but city is addiment.

Mike Huck: Dania Beach –

- All salaries city wide brought up by 20%
- Have a tough time with quality applicants
 - Harder time hiring the younger generation
 - Losing a lot of the younger guys to physical fitness tests
- Idea of salary teams to go to city commissions to help increase salary



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- Recently they went to the 4x10 schedule year-round
 - 4x10's has decreased overtime, and they have gotten an additional 2 full-timers
- Almost full staffed just need one more position to fill.

Mark Beaudreau: Pompano –

- Talking about how important the salary is for the full and part-time lifeguards on his staff
- In dire need of lifeguards
 - 6 people signed up for the last test and only 2 showed up
 - The two that did show up were unprepared and did not pass the swim test Relax some of the requirements as far as Part-Time EMT
 - Last week, 4 out of 8 towers were vacant
 - Looking for part-timers
 - Relaxing EMT for part-timers

Mike Brown: Deerfield- Not in Attendance

Tom Fogan: Fort Lauderdale – Not in Attendance

Mathew Sparling-Miami-Dade County-

- No more pool lifeguards to Miami Dade County
- 450 million deficits for Miami Dade
- Might be losing three full-time lifeguard positions on the beach that are being frozen, not removed
 - Still will be full despite this.

CENTRAL

Mark Fitchner: Lantana Beach, Central VP-

- Only department in whole town that didn't get budget cut and got increase
 - Funded to buy scuba equipment, will be certifying 4 employees in Emergency Response Diver 1 and purchasing two scuba apparatuses
- Will be a private course if any lifeguards in our area interested let me know.
- Installing new swim buoys
- Architects and engineers were hired to begin the re-visioning on the public beach, knocking everything down and building new restaurants, facilities, towers and access ramps
 - 1 year will have blueprint, 2 years will be starting the North end, and 3-4 years south end.
- Began mechanical Beach Raking August 15th



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- Received Funding or Lifeguard Competition for 2026 will be 1st annual hopefully with cash prizes
- Received funding for community CPR program to be taught by Marine Safety Division
- Recertified as Advanced Agency for USLA all part time and full time EMT.

John Meskiel: Palm Beach County-

- New Instagram account for the county
- Increase in emails and calls
- In the middle of third lifeguard academy
- This fall will be PRWC training and building out scenario with fire department
- New request for positions were improved
 - Four new Lieutenant positions opening up
 - Five recent hirings from the pools
- Had equipment pick up in Palm Beach County
- Will send people down to help out with Nationals
- Riviera Beach Ocean Rescue taken over by Fire.

Doug Yoakum: Lake Worth – Not in Attendance

Phil Wotton: Delray Beach- Unable to Attend

Ian Montgelas -Martin County

- Fully staffed
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Clint Tracy: Boca Raton VP Central– Not in Attendance

Tom Mahady: Boynton Beach –

Facing a hiring freeze in Boynton Beach

Morgan Harmon: St. Lucie County –

- Fully Staffed
- Just replaced all lifeguard towers with Bausch Towers
- One candidate for the training officer academy.

Jonathn Billings: Indian River County – Not in Attendance

Nathan Rieck: Vero Beach – Not in Attendance

Ken Keaton: John's Island - Not in Attendance

Helena Khoshnevis: Breakers – Not in Attendance



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North

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

- Some growing pains with new 4 people hired as the new people don't have firefighter certification
- 92% retention
- Trying to do more year-round positions
- First real lifeguard tower got the Bausch lifeguard tower

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

Tamra Malphurs: Volusia County– Unable to Attend

A.J. Miller: Volusia- Unable to Attend

Aaron Jenkins: Volusia County- Unable to Attend

Panhandle

Austin Turnbull: Navarre Beach VP Panhandle –

- Went to regionals
 - Entire panhandle and emerald coast
 - First time Emerald Coast has sent a full team to regionals
- October 18th going to do Navarre beach waterman challenge

Joethan Phillips: Gulf Shores- Not in Attendance

Mo: Destin Beach –

- Everyone is going back to school
 - Substantially smaller
- Still guarding east pass with jet ski operations
- Emailed Ian regarding sending two officers to the officer training

Rich Huffnegale: Okaloosa County – Not in Attendance



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David Vaughan: South Walton Fire District – Not in Attendance

Dave Greenwood: Escambia County – Not in Attendance

Daryl Paul: Panama City Beach- Not in Attendance

- Panama City three open positions.

Dustin Mazsden: Bay County- Not in Attendance

Colin Perlaky: South Walton- Not in Attendance

- Enjoyed going to regionals
- Teaching PRWC course currently
 - Doing another one first week of November

West Coast

Chet Brown: Manatee VP West–

- Getting great support from administration and commission
- Two drownings in the same day
 - Two different times on north end where there are no lifeguards

Greg Rose: Sarasota County-

- Two captains are running the show right now trying to figure out the next steps
- First time in 4 years all full-time employee positions filled
- Three new stands being built

Patrick Bradford: Clearwater Beach – Not in Attendance

Andrea Moreira: Pinellas County – Not in Attendance

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

USLA Update

National meeting is the third week of October. Election year. September USLA regional meeting combined with FBPCA meeting, tentative date for September 17th.- Jerry Falconer

Jo Wagenhal- Adult and junior regionals recap. 217 adult registrants, 118 kids. Region takes up the costs for national's travel, all comes from membership. Nationals recap, large surf.



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Old Business

Swim Near a lifeguard campaign submitting for grant September 1st. USLA academy deadline is also September 1st.

Send things out to the website to post to include the USLA Academy application and team pictures.

Discussion about license plate sales for front of the car that says ocean rescue.

Discussion about new ways to increase revenue for the association.

Talk about zelle or venmo set up for the FBPCA account.

Treasury new one-time fee to become alumni member. \$25.00.

New Business

Nominations for VP of the west Coast. Mathew sparling nominated Chet Brown from Manatee County. Chet Brown got the position for VP of the West Coast with unanimous vote.

Tentative date set for September 17th for USLA/FBPCA joint meeting at Lantana Marine Safety.

John Guscott-Hollywood Beach- Highlighted performance for a simulated scenario between multiple agencies simulating a plane wreck. Talked about the PWC skill set by the lifeguards involved. PWC discussion about the importance of there implementation.

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 --- 2025 Lifesaving Awards Banquet & Chief's Meeting
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 Ian Montgelas, seconded by Jo Wagenhal. Adjourned at 2pm.

Next Meeting

FBPCA Meeting – Wednesday, September 17th, 2025

100 North Ocean Blvd, Palm Beach, FL 33480

11:00 AM

ZOOM Link

<https://zoom.us/j/94095676359?pwd=NEAFciLOZHEawf9O0gbTl4ltaOaZ7q.1>