

# FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

## MEETING MINUTES: 03/13/24, Zoom

### The following members were in attendance:

Matthew Sparling	Miami-Dade County	President
Phil Wotton	Delray Beach	Treasurer
Jerry Falconer	Miami Beach	VP South
Jim McCrady	Hallandale Beach	
Ian Montgelas	Martin County	
Chet Brown	Manatee County	
Alex Bagwell	Ft. Lauderdale	
Marc Fichtner	Lantana Beach	
Jason Casanova	Miami Beach	
Mike Brown	Deerfield Beach	

### The following Lifetime Members were in attendance:

Breck Ballou	FT. Lauderdale (Retired)
Bob Maler	Miami-Dade (Retired)

### The following members communicated that they were unable to attend:

A.J. Miller	Volusia County	Secretary
Gerry Falconer	Miami Beach	VP South
Joe Westerman	Manatee County (Retired)	
Rick Hinkson	Sarasota Beach	
Andy Ritchie	St. Lucie County	

### Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order by Matt Sparling at 1107 hours. Welcome and thanks to everyone for joining.

Motion made to approve minutes from February meeting, approved by Sparling.

### Communications

None noted



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## Officer Reports

### **Matt Sparling President-**

- Attempt arrival a little earlier than 11 for the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to organize flags
- Jackie Young will be in attendance from Endless Summer License Plate Campaign
- Position statement on Drown Zero created discussion
  - Drown Zero is funded by Endless Summer License Plate Campaign
    - Rings intended to be used in addition to lifeguards, not to replace them
    - Bob Maler spoke to history between Brevard City Mayor and County Commission
      - Brevard passed initiative to place ring buoys in certain areas of the beach
    - Message is always “Lifeguards First”, but there should be discussion to use of the life rings
    - Falconer is not strongly against, or for the ring buoys. Reaffirmed the statement “Lifeguards First”. Has concerns to effectiveness of buoys on coastal areas with rip currents

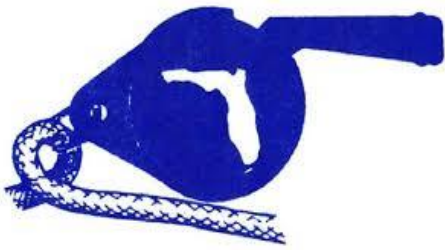
### **Sparling: Miami-Dade-**

- Very busy from spring break
- 200 alarms alone for the weekend in Haulover
  - Beats Memorial Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July numbers combined from last year
- Drowning call for male swept into rocks came out around 1845. Only dispatched to Fire, not lifeguards
- Finishing up union contract, looking at 18%
  - 5% EMT, 5% PWC Operator, 3% COLA, 5% hazard pay for special operations

### **Joe Westerman Advisor – Manatee County (Retired)- Unable to Attend**

### **Phil Wotton Treasurer:**

- |                     |                    |              |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| • Statement Balance | February 29, 2024  | \$4,960.76   |
| • February Expenses | Clear Channel      | \$143,509.88 |
| • FBPCA             |                    | \$99.38      |
| • February Income   | Sarasota BOCC      | \$125        |
|                     | City of Hallandale | \$125        |
|                     | Palm Beach County  | \$125        |



# FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

- March Expenses      Florida Hotel      \$500.00
- March Income      Deerfield Beach      \$125.00
- **Banquet Outstanding      Florida Open Water**
- **Grant Income Review**
- Surfing Evolution & Preservation Corp.      \$71,705.00
- Ron Jon Surf Shop of Fla. Inc.      \$71,705.00
- Surfing Evolution & Preservation Corp.      \$25,188.00
- Total      \$168,598.00
- Grant Expenses Review
- Water Safety Products      \$25,187.50
- Clear Channel      \$143,509.88
- Total      \$168,697.38
- Deficit      \$99.38

## **Delray Beach-**

- Ocean Rescue Open House, March 20, 2024
- USLA 1,000 Meter Swim / 5K Run March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 0730
- Ocean Mile Swim, May 11, 2024

**A.J. Miller: Secretary – Unable to Attend**

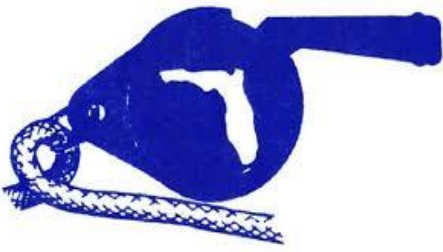
## **SOUTH**

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

- Deferred to Chief Casanova

### **Jason Casanova: Miami Beach –**

- Has seen a slight decrease in spring break attendance after social media campaign
  - Medical and rescue calls still compare to last year's numbers
- On radios 30 minutes passed towers closing
- Have to option of forced overtime
- Had a recent call where a male fell from a charter and was run over by the boat, causing arm amputation, and prop running down the left side of the sternum
  - Utilized two tourniquets
- New tower opening soon where artificial reef will be



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

**Alex Bagwell: Fort Lauderdale-**

- Spring break has been manageable
  - PD comes down at 1730 with 20 officers and clears the entire spring break area
- They have multiple notification systems in place once towers close
- Also pick up radios from towers so the guards can stay open 30 minutes longer
- Jetski is in service during peak hours making water rescues so guards can stay in the towers

**Jim McCrady: Hallandale Beach –**

- Possibly most crowded spring break on record
- Only two hotels and minimal parking, extra large crowds potentially due to availability of Airbnb
- Fully staffed, operating on 4 10-hour shifts

**Ramo Cline: Hollywood Beach – Not in Attendance**

**Mike Huck: Dania Beach – Not in Attendance**

**Jo Wagenhals: Pompano/Deerfield – Unable to Attend**

**Mike Brown: Deerfield-**

- Extremely busy with spring break
- Captain Phil De Bello retired, Jeff Noel promoted to Captain
- Lifeguard Patterson promoted to Lieutenant
- 3 FTE vacancies
- Attempting to convert 8 “will call” positions into 4 FTEs

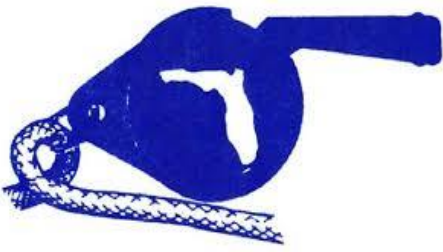
**Tom Fogan: Fort Lauderdale – Nothing to discuss**

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

## CENTRAL

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

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



# FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

**Ian Montgelas: Martin County –**

- Local spring break
- Completed extra training to prepare for response
- Just promoted a Lieutenant and hired 4 FTE
- 1 open FTE, swim test soon with 9 applicants

**Andy Ritchie: St. Lucie County – Unable to Attend**

**Johnathan Billings: Indian River County – Not in Attendance**

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

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

**Mark Fitchner: Lantana Beach-**

- Busy with spring break
- Fully staffed
- Sending senior guard to open water scuba in May
- New employee going to prehospital trauma life support in August
- Looking at hosting a Surfer Safety program teaching local surfers CPR and first aid, what to do before lifeguards arrive

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

**North**

**Jeremy Watkins: St. Johns County VP North– Not in Attendance**

**Jessica Earl: St. Johns County- Not in Attendance**

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

**Maxwell Ervanian: Jacksonville Beach – Not in Attendance**

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

**Sam Swor: Brevard County- Not in Attendance**



# FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

## 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: Not in Attendance**

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

**Joe Earl: Gulf Shores- Not in Attendance**

**Daryl Paul: Panama City Beach- Not in Attendance**

**Dustin Mazsden: Bay County- Not in Attendance**

**Colin Perlaky: South Fort Walton- Not in Attendance**

## West Coast

**Rick Hinkson: Sarasota County – Unable to Attend**

**Chet Brown: Manatee –**

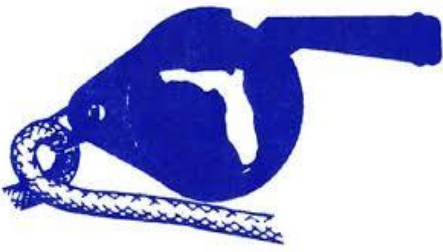
- Busy with spring break
- Heavy into recertification training
- Goal for next year is to have all 11 towers open 365 days a year
- Asking for 6 new positions. 3 new supervisors

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

**Chet Brown: Manatee County – Not in Attendance**

**Andrea Moreira: Pinellas County – Not in Attendance**





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## **DISPOSITION OF BILLS**

No new items

## **USLA Update**

- All agency statistics need to be turned in
- Regionals in Navarre Beach
- Chiefs meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> in Navarre Beach at HQ
- Year 24/25 memberships can be purchased early
  - Do not have to wait until June 30
- In the middle of the Winter Series.
  - Strong start with board, lower turnout for surfski
  - Potentially skipping swim and run dates if low interest
  - Athletes excited about row dates, potentially the month of June
- Set for dates on Regionals and Junior Regionals
- Looking at gear transport options for Nationals
  - Pricing out shipping from Navarre to South Padre

## **New Business**

- Sparling about sand collapse protocols
  - Appears most agencies really focus on prevention of large hole digging
  - Demonstration previously in South Padre Island
  - Miami working on protocol
  - Maler suggested looking for video from Crandon collapse
    - Video was recently posted on Miami-Dade Fire social media
    - Suggestions to create standing protocol or best practices
- Bob Maler would like noted that there was a 7-mile paddle in Key West in honor of Bert Soden
- Bob asked if we were doing something at the banquet for the original members
- Brevard commission looking into cutting lifeguard funding and removing some towers and staff from the beach
  - Discussion

## **Banquet Update-**

- Received link for hotel reservations for banquet
  - Twenty rooms in block
- Brochure almost complete
  - Thank you for photo and bio submissions
- Bob Maler purchasing ¼ page for Beach Chiefs' Alumni
- Still looking for brochure sponsors to help offset the cost of the banquet
  - Due by the end of April
- Currently no speakers for educational conference
  - If none available, that portion will be cancelled



# FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

## **Need Submit/Discuss Disposition of Goals 2024 (if time allows)**

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

Here is a DRAFT Schedule for 2024 – If anyone would like to host a meeting let us know.

2024 Meeting Schedule	
January 19	13731 Collins Ave Miami Beach, FL 33154
February 6 <sup>th</sup> @ 9am (BPOTY Presentation)	123 W. Indiana Ave, DeLand, FL 32720 Meeting to Follow
Meeting to follow at Beach HQ	515 S. Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118
March 13th 11-2	Zoom
April 19th 11-2	Water Safety Products – Palm Bay
May 17 <sup>th</sup> and May 18th	Orlando --- 2023 Lifesaving Awards Banquet & Educational Conference
June 21 <sup>st</sup> 11-2	Martin County
July 16 <sup>th</sup> 4-5	Navarre Beach
August 14 <sup>th</sup> 11-2	Zoom
September* 13	Lantana
October 18th 11-2	Fort Lauderdale
November 15 <sup>th</sup> 11-2	Marsh Landing
December 13 <sup>th</sup> 11-2**	Deerfield Beach (looking at moving the meeting to the first week of December

### **Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1254 hrs

### **Next meeting**

Water Safety Products INC.

2330 Commerce Park Dr NE #4, Palm Bay, FL 32905

### **Zoom option**

<https://zoom.us/j/97862407103?pwd=eHBBVFFLOHNmcFNJV2lTOUE4cXFRQT09>

Meeting ID: 978 6240 7103

Passcode: 236343