

FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES: 04/18/25 Water Safety Products

The following members were in attendance:

Ian Montgelas	Martin County	President
Matthew Sparling	Miami-Dade	Advisor
Phil Wotton	Delray Beach	Treasurer
Jessica Earl	ST. Johns County	VP North
Tom Mahady	Boynton Beach	
Mark Fichtner	Lantana Beach	
Aaron Jenkins	Volusia County	
Eisen Witcher	Brevard County	
Sam Swor	Brevard County	
Chris Henderson	Indian River	
Jason Casanova	Miami Beach	

The following Members were in attendance on Zoom:

Colin Perlacky	South Walton Fire	
Austin Turnbull	Navarre Beach	VP Panhandle
Rick Hinkson	Sarasota	VP West

The following Lifetime Members were in attendance:

Breck Ballou	Fort Lauderdale (Retired)
Bob Maler	Miami-Dade (Retired) (Zoom)
Tom Fogan	
Gerry Falconer	Miami Beach (Retired) (Zoom)

The following guests were in attendance:

Jackie Young	Surfing's Evolution and Preservation
Heather Lewis	Director of Marketing for Ron Jon Surf Shop

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Call to order at 1100.

Communications

None to report



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Officer Reports

Ian Montgelas President-

- Discussed the history of the grant spending from Surfing's Evolution and Preservation Foundation, and Ron Jon Surf Shop
- Heather Lewis, Director of Marketing for Ron Jon
 - Evaluating the ROI into FBPCA and any economic/demographic changes
- South Florida billboards are up and running
 - Intent was to capture spring break crowds
- Most other billboards and baggage claims will begin May 5th
- News castors are starting to use the term swim near a lifeguard
 - That messaging should always be conveyed during interviews
- Surfing's Evolution and Preservation, and Ron Jon surf shop recently started their own billboard campaign

Matt Sparling Advisor: (Miami Dade)

Phil Wotton Treasurer:

• Statement Balance March 31, 2025	\$11,644.83	\$6,644.83
	\$5,001.36	
• March Income		
Town of Lantana 2026 Membership		\$125.00
• March Expenses		
Florida Hotel		\$500
• April Income		
Indian River County		\$125
City of Boca Raton		\$275
Dune Deck Café		\$250
Pinellas County		\$125
Original Waterman		\$250
RTP Credit The Comma Club		\$150
Sarasota County		\$125
Escambia County		\$125
• Banquet Expenses Florida Hotel		\$500
• Banquet Income Dune Deck Café		\$250
Original Waterman		\$250
RTP Credit The Comma Club		\$150



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A.J. Miller: Secretary – Unable to Attend

SOUTH

Matt Sparling: Advisor

- Door Prizes needed for the banquet
- \$10 at the door for wait staff
 - Charity for 50/50 is Surfers for Autism

Jason Casanova: Miami Beach, South VP –

- Received a letter from the commission requesting a 5-10% budget reduction for next fiscal year
 - Looking at “areas” to reduce
- Offshore reef line project getting ready to start
 - Potentially only 900 feet from shore

Joel Fernandez: Miami – Not in Attendance

Matt Sparling: Miami-Dade County-

- Came up with 10 percent budget cut
- Hiring freeze being enacted
- No more travel unless essential
- 30 vacancies, 20 applicants in backgrounds
 - Unable to hire due to cut
- Had to keep a tower closed due to call outs
- Was able to utilize civilian support and mailing list
 - Mayor’s office received close to 300 complaints about the tower being closed
 - Hiring freeze lifted
- JG program cancelled due to staffing issues
- The World Cup is next year, and the county needs to budget for FIFA dues

Alex Bagwell: Fort Lauderdale- Not in Attendance

Gio Serrano: Fort Lauderdale – Not in Attendance

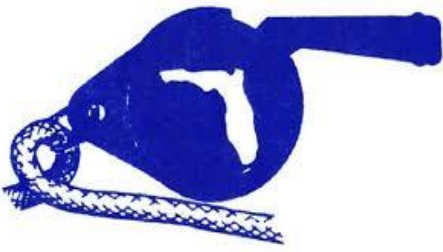
Jim McCrady: Hallandale Beach – Not in Attendance

- Having a test soon

Ramo Cline: Hollywood Beach – Not in Attendance

Mike Huck: Dania Beach – Not in Attendance

- Agency doing well



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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-

- FTE was fired
- Have a few vacancies
- Had to vacate their gym property
 - Was later told it was so they could demo and rebuild the structure

John Meskiel: Palm Beach County- Not in Attendance

- Guards working overtime due to shortages

Doug Yoakum: Lake Worth – Not in Attendance

- Had a drowning on their beach
 - 3 victims
 - One expired

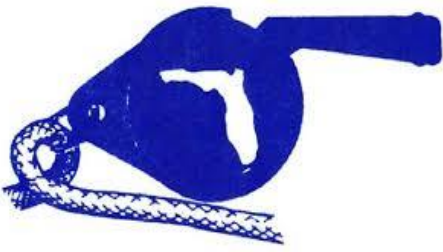
Phil Wotton: Delray Beach-

- April 30th - Competition series race # 3
- May 10th – Annual Ocean Mile Swim
- May 30th - 34th Annual Lifeguard Competition
- Budget Submissions / Exercises

Ian Montgelas -Martin County

- Recently had a probationary termination
- Hired 1 FTE to be fully staffed
- Tentatively approved to add 4 LT position
- Approved for new building in Hobe Sound on Jupiter Island
- Biannual swim testing for full time staff.

Clint Tracy: Boca Raton VP Central– Not in Attendance



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Tom Mahady: Boynton Beach –

- Absorbed the fire department
- Fire Chief allowed him to certify fire staff that passed USLA swim for special detail pay

Andy Ritchie: St. Lucie County – Not in Attendance

Chris Henderson: Indian River County –

- Hiring 1 FTE
 - Will make them fully staffed
- Looking into taking over city guards adding 3 new beaches
- Added 3 new beach wheels

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-

- Asked to review budget for cuts
 - Submitted the same budget, as she has nothing to cut
- Finished first academy (10)
- Second starting in May
- HR asking for mandating 40 hours a week within PTE
- Has been increasing their fire training to supplement PTE staffing shortages

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-



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Eisen Witcher: Brevard County –

- Still dealing with fallout from city/county budget battle
- Looking at hiring 4 FTE
- Filled 27 of 100 seasonal positions
- Demographic is shifting to younger generation (elementary over high school)
- Looking at pushing for more FTEs
 - Does not anticipate future budget cuts

Tamra Malphurs: Volusia County– Unable to Attend

A.J. Miller: Volusia- Unable to Attend

Aaron Jenkins: Volusia County

- Just did a complete agency overall/service model update
 - Lost a few positions
- 5 FTE vacancies
- Getting pressure to post signs in unguarded areas instead of patrolling
- Spring Break went well
 - Medicals and rescues
- Hosting regionals
 - Looking at getting Nationals '27
 - Live streaming Regionals
- Just finished several recruit classes
 - First year to do a fall class
 - Conducting a third, summer class
- Will Ulrich from the National Weather Service has a great presentation on drowning in relation to months
- Florida SMART Water initiative is collecting data
 - Conference in Orlando
- Looking at new ways to raise money for our competition team
 - Looking at Pack-A-World inflatable water polo

Panhandle

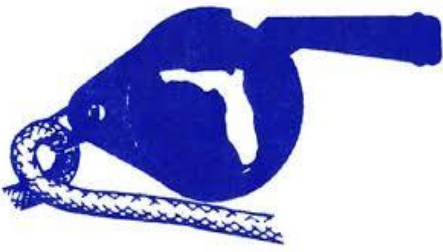
Austin Turnbull: Navarre Beach VP Panhandle –

- Had a race in Orange Beach
 - Great turn out
- Orange Beach just had jetski and helicopter training
- Requested not to ask for any budget increases

Joethan Phillips: Gulf Shores- Not in Attendance

Joe D'Agostino: Destin Beach – Not in Attendance

- Still no chief after Joe retired



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Rich Huffnegale: Okaloosa County – Not in Attendance

David Vaughan: South Walton Fire District – Not in Attendance

Dave Greenwood: Pensacola – Not in Attendance

- Soon to be fully staffed

Daryl Paul: Panama City Beach- Not in Attendance

- Added 8-9 FTE

Dustin Mazsden: Bay County- Not in Attendance

Colin Perlaky: South Walton-

- Requested to look further into the budget
- Entered their third private entity for coverage
 - Able to expand their agency due to the private contracts
 - Each contract pays for 1 FTE year round
 - Start up costs are tower, med bag, ATV, uniform
- Spring Break was a little slower than year's past
 - Problems are with the high school age kids
 - Curfews were enacted for anyone under the age of 17
- Demoed Resant straps
 - Purchased for their entire fleet

West Coast

Rick Hinkson: Sarasota County VP-

- Spring Break crowds were similar to last year
- Reached out but did not hear from any other Gulf Coast agencies
- Had one FTE vacancy but then had 3 resignations
- Season staff starting in May
 - Have been holding staff until 7pm since March
- All damaged towers have been fixed or replaced
- Fire and EMS are getting more involved in EMS refresher training
- New HR director that is pro Lifeguard and Fire
- Just took delivery of new UTVs
- Working on drumming up numbers and becoming part of the CAD system

Chet Brown: Manatee – Not in Attendance

Patrick Bradford: Clearwater Beach – Not in Attendance



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Andrea Moreira: Pinellas County – Unable to attend

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

Concurrent Resolution 41

- <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-concurrent-resolution/41>
- Please still contact your congress person in support of the bill

USLA Update

Waiting for reports from National BOD

Old Business

None to Discuss

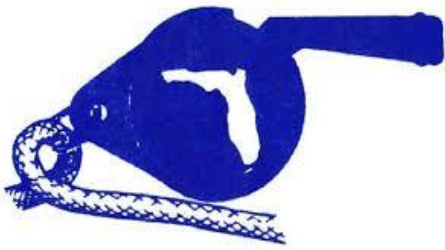
New Business

- Bob Maler solicited if any alumni would like to front the alumni group donation to the banquet
 - He is willing to do so
 - *Gerry Falconer volunteered to cover the Alumni donation*
- Bob Maler looking for alumni water polo competition in Volusia
- Bob Maler suggested, if signs are to be made for no lifeguard on duty, add the verbiage “due to budget cuts”
- Video watched on Barefoot Aquatics and new rescue tube
- Mark Fichtner spoke on website research
 - Options are down to three
 - Each will incur a monthly cost
 - Would roughly be covered by three memberships
- Phil Wotton made a motion to settle on and pay for Wix website management monthly payment, seconded by Sparling **MPU**
- Discussion- Website will be down for a month or two during transition
 - Will be able to link social media accounts and ease for future management

Banquet Update-

- Montgelas presented the rough draft for the banquet brochure
- Hotel reservation April 28th and the link has been sent out
- Ian Montgelas went through the banquet speaking points

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



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Open Forum

- Discussion with Heather Lewis, Director of Marketing for Ron Jon Surf Shop
 - Discussing future pathways for consideration for exposure
 - Focusing on high visibility areas billboards
 - Transitioning more to digital and social media
 - Looking at geographic areas that have a need for more focused digital targeting
 - Potentially downsizing the number of billboards and reinvesting into digital
 - Has more availability to track analytics on engagement
 - Breaking down to age range, genders, geographic location with the main goal of redirecting our target audience back to our message of “Swim Near a Lifeguard”
- Discussed creating a quick video for media release
- Options to utilize TDC funds
- Working with Hotelier groups throughout the state

Here is a DRAFT Schedule for 2025 – If anyone would like to host a meeting let us know.

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 (Tentative)	USLA Regionals – Volusia
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 Monteglas, seconded by Sparling. Adjourned at 1331

Next Meeting

Florida Hotel, Orlando
May 17th, 1pm-4pm
Lifesaving Banquet to follow at 6pm