



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES: 09/13/24

The following members were in attendance:

Matthew Sparling	Miami-Dade County	President
Phil Wotton	Delray Beach	Treasurer
Ian Montgelas	Martin County	VP Central
Gerry Falconer	City of Miami Beach	
Andrew Ritchie	St. Lucie County	
Jessica Earl	St. Johns County	
Marc Fichtner	Lantana Beach	
Brian Raducci	Lantana Beach Town Manager	
Alex Bagwell	Fort Lauderdale	
Mike Huck	Danie Beach	
Doug Woakum	Lake Worth	
John Meskiel	Palm Beach	
Chet Brown	Manatee County	
Tom Fogan	Ft. Lauderdale (Retired)	

The following Lifetime Members were in attendance:

Bob Maler	Retired Miami-Dade (Zoom)
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The following members attended through Zoom:

Matthew Sparling	Miami-Dade County	President
A.J. Miller	Volusia County	Secretary
Jim McCrady	Hallandale Beach	

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order by Matt Sparling at 1101 WELCOME and thanks to everyone for joining.

Meeting minute corrections from August-
Correct Eisen's attendance

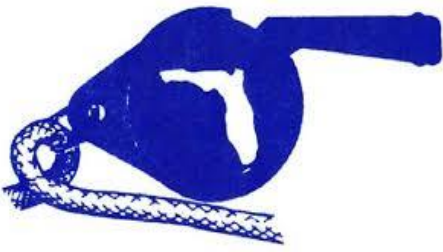
There are no more challenge coins, Falconer purchased the remaining

Motion to approve August minutes by Falconer pending listed corrections, seconded Wotton. **MPU**

Communications

Falconer thanked Fichtner and Town Manager Raducci for hospitality.

Brian Raducci thanked everyone for coming. He said Marc has done an amazing job rebuilding the department. He appreciates what we do as an agency for surf lifesaving.



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Officer Reports

Matt Sparling President-

- Grants submitted and awarded
 - 187k in total
 - 151,000 in billboards
 - 18
 - 25k for flags from water safety products
 - 5k for brochures
 - Getting with printer for amount available
 - Beach safety awareness
 - 5k for USLA Officer Training Academy December 2025
 - Discussion on application process or rotating
 - Asking for PWC class as well and working on billboards in Pan Handle
 - Funding will funnel through at the regional level
- Discussion in reference to the letter for Brevard County Ocean Rescue
 - Falconer suggested that we would not be speaking on their budget, but on the lifesaving efforts affected by position cuts
- Gerry made a motion to write a general position statement for Brevard, seconded by McCrady.
 - Discussion:
 - Sparling will send letter to advisor and E board for approval- **MPU**

Sparling: Miami-Dade-

- Swim test scheduled so unable to attend in person. 8 pass for 7 vacancies

Joe Westerman Advisor – Manatee County (Retired)- Not in Attendance

Phil Wotton Treasurer:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Statement Balance August 30, 2024 | \$1,211.22 |
| • August Income | \$0.00 |
| • August Expenses | |
| Action Awards | \$74.87 |
| Go Daddy / 365 Basic Renewal | \$38.28 |
| • Banquet Outstanding USLA SER | \$2,427.06 |
| • Salary Survey & Operation Hours Survey | |



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Delray Beach-

- Beach Test
- Vacant Fire Chief Position

A.J. Miller: Secretary – Nothing to report

Volusia-

- Looking at 60 cameras for patrol trucks
- New Director Appointed
- New PIOs at Community Information
- First winter recruit class in November
 - The goal is to have them done before spring break

SOUTH

Gerry Falconer: Miami Beach VP South-

- Still under heat advisory
- Contract expires soon
 - Saving sick time will be paid out 100 percent for the year
- Jason Casavona-Division Chief has done an outstanding job.
 - Rewritten BLS protocol
 - Updated EMT and training
- Anticipate hiring soon
- ***Retiring first of January after 32 years***

Jason Casanova: Miami Beach – Not in Attendance

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

Alex Bagwell: Fort Lauderdale-

- Lieutenant Gregory Wolfe Retired after 51 years
- Applicant test
- Vehicles falling apart
- 3 FTE vacancies, 1 LT
- Getting new towers through Bosch
- Looking at putting in a bid for 2026 Nationals
- HQ moving into a temp building until Hall of Fame builds them a station



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Jim McCrady: Hallandale Beach –

- Water test 9/11
 - 40 applicants
 - Only tested 4 and they all passed
 - Next test is on the 25th of September for the other 36
 - Limiting the number of applicants to 8 pushed through based on their swim times
- Training Officer Academy for 2024 is full
 - Taking names for overflow list
- Gene Bergman will be on January 16th
- 11th annual Peter Zstorsky surfcraft challenge on November 4th

Ramo Cline: Hollywood Beach – Not in Attendance

Mike Huck: Dania Beach –

- Commission approved 2 FTE for in-house hiring
 - Testing first week of October
- October 19th Whiskey Creek Paddle **CANCELLED**
- Dealt with Senior Sunrise Skip Day
 - Medical emergencies started around 10 am
 - Forced exit from the beach

John Meskiel: Palm Beach County (submitting application) –

- Beach test early September
 - Hiring 6 FTE
- Will have a test at the end of October or November
- 3 employees dismissed for disciplinary action
 - Has improved moral with the backing of HR
- Pushing for incentive pay for EMT and boat operator
- Potentially may lose union due to lack of employee engagement
- Would like to participate with Training Officer Academy
- Captain position that has been on hold due to investigation
- Promoted new district supervisor
- Agency moving forward
- Looking to provide RIB course after the first of the year
- Would like to host regionals next year

Doug Woakum: Lake Worth –

- New Bosch lifeguard towers
- A large percentage of leisure service employees have resigned
- Has new Captain's position but waiting on new pay study before releasing announcement



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Jo Wagenhals: Pompano/Deerfield – 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

Clint Tracy: Boca Raton VP Central– Not in Attendance

Tom Mahady: Boynton Beach – Not in Attendance

Ian Montgelas: Martin County –

- Fully staffed
- Enjoying September with kids back in school
- Looking at Bathtub beach opening in Nov or Dec
- Contract approved. Starting at \$27 an hour with yearly percent raise
- Sick leave was approved for 40 hours a year
 - Does not roll over
- Fire Department was approved for the Saber Grant
 - Anticipates some lifeguards applying for fire
- Grant request from Surfing Evolution and Preservation

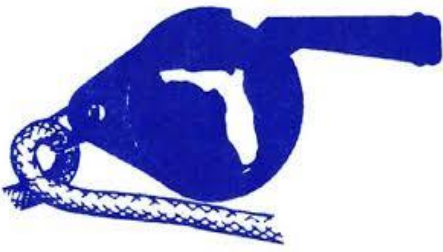
Andy Ritchie: St. Lucie County –

- Nothing to report

Johnathan Billings: Indian River County – Not in Attendance

Nathan Rieck: Vero Beach – Not in Attendance

Ken Keaton: John's Island - Not in Attendance



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Mark Fitchner: Lantana Beach-

- Has been getting overflow issue from Lake Worth
 - Discussion on documenting issues on the beach
- 1 FTE vacancy
- Just honored lifeguard that has been on staff since the 90s
- Final stages for approval on the surfer safety program
 - 5-10 local surfers will be put through a basic course on water emergency action
- 1st Annual Rob Caldwell Memorial Race
 - Looking at dates
 - Palm Beach County will donate 2 staff members to help set up event
- Sending two staff members through dive training
- 2025, new boardwalk and pavilion
- All FTE are EMT, First aid, and CPR Instructors
- COLA coming this year
- Beach Safety pamphlets are being disseminated through a realtor box
 - 250-300 pamphlets so far
- Reef/rock cleanup
 - Clear plastic box placed in box to show how much trash is collected
- The first year of 4 10s was a success
- Looking for combative victim in the water training

Helena Khoshnevis: Breakers – Not in Attendance

North

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

Jessica Earl: St. Johns County-

- Things are going well
- Hired 4 additional FTE
- Two marine rescue academies this winter
- Small boat, large boat training
- 12-hour shifts
- Updating unified response plan
- Putting members on the SO dive team
- Outgrowing

Stephen Fender: Brevard County – Not in Attendance

Maxwell Ervanian: Jacksonville Beach – Not in Attendance

Tom Gillin: Flagler Beach – Not in Attendance



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Sam Swor: Brevard County- Not in Attendance

Eisen Witcher: Brevard County – 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

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 – Not in Attendance

Chet Brown: Manatee –

- Fully staffed
 - 5 new FTE approved

Patrick Bradford: Clearwater Beach – Not in Attendance

Andrea Moreira: Pinellas County – Not in Attendance

DISPOSITION OF BILLS

Concurrent Resolution 41

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



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USLA Update

McCrary hosting 11th annual 12-mile Piotr Zstorsky Key West Surfcraft Challenge
November 4th around Key West (Smather's Beach)

New Business

- Applications for BPOTY and LGOTY are due before the November meeting.
 - Voting in December
- USLA award nomination due by October 6th [Open Water Lifeguard Agency National Awards Program - United States Lifesaving Association \(usla.org\)](https://www.usla.org) to GerardFalconer@miamibeachfl.gov
- Salary survey will be going out soon
- The survey was the only reason Lantana Beach was able to get their recent raise
- Lauderdale by the Sea has voted down lifeguards
- City of Miami Beach is accepting of all South Florida Lifeguards

Banquet Update-

- None

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

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



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

2024 Meeting Schedule	
January 19	13731 Collins Ave Miami Beach, FL 33154
February 6 th @ 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 13 th 11-2	Zoom
April 19 th 11-2	Water Safety Products – Palm Bay
May 18 th 1-3	Orlando --- <i>2024 Lifesaving Awards</i> Banquet & Educational Conference. Chief's Meeting at 1pm
June 21 st 11-2	Martin County
July 16 th 4-5	Navarre Beach
August 14 th 11-2	Zoom
September* 13	Lantana
October 18 th 11-2	Fort Lauderdale
November 15 th 11-2	Marsh Landing
December 13 th 11-2**	Deerfield Beach (looking at moving the meeting to the first week of December)

Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn A.J., seconded by Falconer. 1235

Next meeting

October 18, 2024
501 Seabreeze Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Topic: FBPCA Meeting

Time: Oct 18, 2024 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93171789736?pwd=a7P5aMrolhBzQAoqNVluyCpffBE9fz.1>

Meeting ID: 931 7178 9736

Passcode: 637550