



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES: 10/18/24

The following members were in attendance:

Matthew Sparling	Miami-Dade County	President
Phil Wotton	Delray Beach	Treasurer
Gerry Falconer	City of Miami Beach	VP South
Jessica Earl	St. Johns County	
Alex Bagwell	Fort Lauderdale	
Tom Fogan	Fort Lauderdale (Retired)	
Chet Brown	Manatee County	
Marc Fichtner	Lantana Beach	
Sam Jensen	Lantana Beach	
Jim McCrady	Hallandale Beach	
Mike Huck	Dania Beach	
Ian Montgelas	Martin County	
Pompano Justin Halloway		
Pete McGinnis		

The following Lifetime Members were in attendance:

Bob Maler	Miami-Dade (Retired) (Zoom)
Breck Ballou	Fort Lauderdale (Retired)

The following members attended through Zoom:

A.J. Miller	Volusia County	Secretary
Greg Moyles	Manatee retired (check recording)	
Joe Westerman	Manatee County (Retired)	
Megan Hansen	Newport Naval Base	
Jason Casanova	City of Miami Beach	

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Matthew Sparling called the meeting to order at 1104. Welcomed and thanked everyone for joining.

Minutes approved from September meeting.

Communications

Rick Hinkson was unable to attend.



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Officer Reports

Matt Sparling President-

- Beach Safety Awareness flyers printed (5000)
 - Phil suggests changing dangerous marine life to stinging marine life
 - State changed verbiage
 - Information given to Jackie Young
 - Numbers from recording
- 10 scholarships to Officer Academy
 - Follow up discussion on application process
- Received notification from Peter Davis reference storm impacts in Manatee and Sarasota
- California State reached out for search and rescue help

Sparling: Miami-Dade-

- Sheriff election in November
 - Looks like Ocean Rescue will stay with Fire
 - Most officers will go to BSO
 - Some supervisory staff will be laid off
 - Positions are being identified as “bumpable”
- Issues with High Surf Sleds
 - Damage under normal use
 - No assistant from the manufacturer
- Had high surf from the storm
 - Had to remove all their towers
 - Miami personnel were in shelters and patrolling the beach
- Drug tests on birthday, no randoms

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

Phil Wotton Treasurer:

- Statement Balance September 30, 2024 \$1,211.22
- September Income \$0.00
- August Expenses \$0.00
- USLA SER provided banquet reimbursement of \$2,427.06 and will be reflected in October income statement.
- 2025 Membership Due
- Email Distribution List
- Salary Survey
- Operation Hours Survey



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Delray Beach-

- New Fire Chief, Ronald Martin
- Dredging project scheduled for November 2025
- Three towers presently anchored and strapped off as a precautionary measure due to erosion.
- 11/2025 starts dredge project

A.J. Miller: Secretary –

- Nominees for any awards are due by November 13th meeting
- Election year

Volusia-

- Left 8 units on the beach during storm
 - Staffed 5 shelters with remaining on duty staff
 - 3am, called National Guard and deployed our shelter units on high water rescue
- New toll company
 - Automated gates on ramps with license plate readers
- Building new control tower in 2025
- Interviewing for a Deputy Chief position
- Fall recruit class starting in November
- Doing a swim workshop for all FTE
- 18.50 PT / 19.75 FT
- Service Model update being done

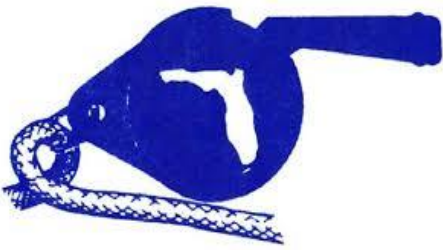
SOUTH

Gerry Falconer: Miami Beach VP South-

- Condolences for agencies affected by the hurricane
 - Pulled towers back from the water
 - Storm created a heavy swell
- Referendum for legalization of marijuana November 5th
 - How will it affect the different agencies?
 - Are HR departments discussing
- Miami Beach is in contract negotiations

Jason Casanova: Miami Beach – Zoom

- Hearts and prayers to those affected
- Multiple meetings on moving towers and assets updated every 2 hours
- HR has contacted Ocean Rescue Command on how this will affect staff
- Replacing three towers



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- Implementing more artwork
- Reefline project may kick off next week
 - 5 miles of beach with artificial reef installed to mark off as a marine sanctuary
- Miami Beach HR is taking a hardline on drugfree workplace

Joel Fernandez: City of Miami – Not in Attendance

Alex Bagwell: Fort Lauderdale-

- Had groundbreaking ceremony for new HQ
 - Phase I for 5500 square foot, two stories
- Sending Bruce Wilkie to National BOD
- Gene Bergeman January 16th, 9 am launching from Tower 4
- Gie Serrano will be acting chief while she is on FMAL
- Filled 3 FTE

Jim McCrady: Hallandale Beach –

- Fully staffed
- PTE making \$26 an hour on the weekends (raise)
- Best waves he has scene in Hallandale from the storm

Ramo Cline: Hollywood Beach – Not in Attendance

Mike Huck: Dania Beach –

- Tested for 2 FTE
 - Will interview soon
- Whiskey Creek paddle was cancelled
 - Issues with special event permits and it being a fundraiser
 - Will be back on for next year
- BSO sent out meeting for emergency response

Doug Woakum: Lake Worth – Not in Attendance

Pete McGinnis: Pompano – Not in Attendance

Justin Halloway: Pompano -

- Struggling to get part time help
 - \$20 an hour with EMT requirement

Mike Brown: Deerfield- Not in Attendance

Tom Fogan: Fort Lauderdale – Nothing to Submit



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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 –

- Survived Hurricane Helene
- Milton had one, three hour stretch of tornadoes
- Had surf but was not as good as Miami
- 1 FTE, 12 candidates
- Testing in October
- New ranchers and Pioneer
- Paragan Marine refurbished surveyor tower
- Now for sale

Andy Ritchie: St. Lucie County – Not in Attendance

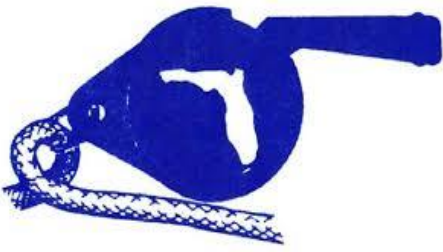
Johnathan Billings: Indian River County – Not in Attendance

Nathan Rieck: Vero Beach – Not in Attendance

Ken Keaton: John's Island - Not in Attendance

Mark Fitchner: Lantana Beach-

- Updating the website
- Creating a Google Drive for old photos
- Motion by A.J. Miller for Fitchner to take over social media. Seconded by Sparling. **MPU**
- Trial year of 4-10s is over
 - Was successful and will continue with that schedule
- Closed beach during hurricane
 - Received short, but large swell
- Rob Caldwell pushed off to 2026
 - Will be a winter competition
- Denied Firehouse Subs grant
- Looking to get grants for dive team
- Has the First Responder Bill ever been pushed on the state level
 - McManus has been working on it



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Helena Khoshnevis: Breakers – Not in Attendance

North

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

Jessica Earl: St. Johns County-

- Not much storm related issues
- Had teams of four for boater response
- Has two drownings on 10/13
- Upper management arguing that signage could have prevented the drownings
- 42 miles of beach with 4 FTE in the off season
- PTE 7 percent raise

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

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



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Dustin Mazsden: Bay County- Not in Attendance

Colin Perlaky: South Fort Walton- Not in Attendance

West Coast

Rick Hinkson: Sarasota County – Unable to attend

- Lost 4 towers in the last month
 - Still committed to emergency roles for our teams
 - Hoping to have a small operation back on beaches by end of month
- Appreciate everyone who reached out during the storms

Chet Brown: Manatee –

- Hit hard
 - Debbie washed away sand
 - Helene sand and flooding
 - Milton mainly rain
 - Most of their lifeguard towers made it
- Read post criticizing his leadership and stated that it is unacceptable
- Water rescues prior to the storm with fire department
 - Around 400 people removed from their homes
- Beaches are not currently open
- Leadership, staff, and the community have been supportive
- All staff that have been displaced due to damaged homes have been situated
- Alex Bagwell offered two survey towers
 - Sparling offered wooden towers

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>
- Please still contact your congress person in support of the bill



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USLA Update

11th Pete Ztorsky 12-mile race around Key West November 4th
Looking forward to regionals in Volusia County
Gene Bergman 10 miler January 16th, 9am at Tower 4

Old Business

- Update on letter in support of Brevard Lifeguard staffing
 - Cities involved were able to find the money to mitigate staffing cuts
 - Budget passed 3 to 2

New Business

- Election year with voting in December
- Can we add the Brevard letter to the minutes- Yes
- Megan Hansson with Newport Naval Base would like information on becoming a member
- Phil suggests changing dangerous marine life to stinging marine life
 - State changed verbiage

Banquet Update-

- None

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



FLORIDA BEACH PATROL CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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 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 --- 2024 Lifesaving Awards 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 13 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 Wotton, seconded by Falconer 1311.

Next meeting

November 13, 2024
Marsh Landing
Fellsmere
(Bring \$10)

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Nov 13, 2024 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0ucuqrrDopHdVsedLpReLmcXu3uddb4AxC>

After registering on the attached link, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.