



24 July 2011

# Bucket & Buoy

*Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps: Saving lives since 1929*

## The Election and Lifeguard Competition Issue



### Presidential Address

Tom Donovan - President, JBLC

This edition of the Bucket & Buoy is dedicated to two very important events: Our Union elections and the 2011 Interbeach races.

As far as the elections are concerned, ballots will be available and will be collected during the weekends of July 30/31 and August 6/7. The only contested position is that of Union President where Claudio Steel (CM) is running against me. Frankly, I wish more JBLC members were as interested as Claude is in the present and future of our Union. Claude and I are presenting our letters to JBLC members on Page 2 in this edition of the B&B. May the best person win! If you have any questions, contact Tony Battisti, Election Chairperson, at the EBHO or email [a.battisti@verizon.net](mailto:a.battisti@verizon.net)

Finally, it is with sadness that I tell you that, Bruce Meirowitz's mother, Amelia, passed away this week. It still amazes me how much this job turns strangers into family. On behalf of the entire JBLC family, our condolences to the Meirowitz family.



### 2011 Interbeach Races

Ed Costigan, ZB

This is for the bragging rights...*does your field have what it takes to earn the title, "2011 JBLC Interbeach Champion"?*

On Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM, a short ceremony will open the 2011 Interbeach races to honor the memories of JBLC members who were murdered on 9/11/2001 as well as those killed in the line of service to this country. I hope you have the opportunity to attend this ceremony even if you're not competing in the night's events.

The legendary **Reggie Jones has donated \$500** to be given to the winning field to assist in their celebratory festivities. This magnanimous gesture and awards will be given out on Sunday evening, August 14, at Shooters Tiki & Sports Bar, 2109 Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh, NY.

**Recognition Awards** will be also given out to current and retired Lifeguards who have selflessly served the public for 50+ years. As of now, we will recognize the Bob Burkley, Bob Davison, John Messbauer, George Marth, James "The Prez" Monroe, John Pasquale, and Charlie Southwick for their dedication and service as JB Lifeguards.

**Oh, and this year, only State-issued equipment will be allowed – no exceptions!**

Friday, July 29, WBHO

7:15 Open 100 Yard (other categories are non-scoring)  
7:45 10 x 66 Yard Pool Relay  
8:30 Beach Flags "Under The Lights"

Thursday, August 11, RM5 (west side)

5:30 Ironman  
5:55 Ironman Relay  
6:10 Kayak Relay  
6:30 Surfboat

Friday, August 12, EBHO

5:30 Flat Tow  
5:45 One Guard Line Pull  
6:05 Surfboard Relay  
6:25 Two Guard Line Pull  
6:40 Run Swim Run

Saturday, August 13, EBHO

5:30 2 Mile Beach Run  
5:55 Distance Swim  
6:10 10 Guard Ocean Relay  
6:30 10 Guard Running Relay



### Bulletin Board

**All Women Lifeguard Tournament, 27 July:** The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual All-Women LG Tournament will be held on July 27<sup>th</sup> at Sandy Hook. JBLC *always* fields a strong team. For answers to questions, please contact Jill Friedman at ZB.

**Fairwell Ray Newbold, 30 July:** The final farewell service for Ray Newbold will be held, Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, Field 6. Ray was undoubtedly one of the most colorful lifeguards to ever blow a whistle. Please join Margot, Christian, and all Ray's friends and family. And bring your best Newbold stories...

**Fairwell Kent Southlea, 3 August:** Kent worked at Field 2 from 1956 to 1962. His final farewell service will be held, Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30am, Field 2. It would be a tremendous JBLC gesture if many current LGs attended.

**Dennis Angermaier, 6 August:** The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Run-Swim-Rum will be held at RM3 on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of August at 9:30pm. Contact Stu Kaplan at RM3 for details. This event raises money for the Dennis Angermaier Lifeguard Scholarship Fund.

**Robert Moses Volleyball Tournament, 10 August:** This year's event will be held August 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-4pm at RM4. As this is an all-day event, you cannot participate while in pay status! The cost is \$10 per team, and is open to all current JBLC Lifeguards and JBLC Lifeguards who are on a Leave of Absence. Please bring your own food and non-alcoholic drinks for the day (no alcohol will be permitted at RM 4 on this day). Contact Chris Olsen at RM5 or Jamie Schnauffer at RM2 to register your team.

**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 2011, 16 October:** *Save the date - Sunday, October 16, 2011.* Be part of Team Margaret Ross-Adler/Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps for the annual 5 Mile Walk on "The Boardwalk". Rolling start between 8-11AM beginning at Zach's Bay.



### Community Events



#### **Distant Memory Swim to fight**

**Alzheimer's.** Retired JB LG Jim Daly sent us a notice that this year's Distance Memory Swim has been dedicated to his dad, the legendary Hal Daly.

An article about Hal on the Distant Memory Swim website can be viewed at [www.memoryswim.org/swim-in-honor-memory-of.php](http://www.memoryswim.org/swim-in-honor-memory-of.php).

"Sadly, Hal passed away in 2003 at the age of 70 from complications due to Alzheimer's. On Thursday, July 28, 2011 my brother Patrick Daly will be swimming for me in the **Distant Memory** swim again to raise awareness and money to fight Alzheimer's in Hal's memory. Please join me – or donate. Thanks."



## JBLC Elections

*Election results will be available at the next Beach Representatives meeting to be held on 8/10/2011 at the WBHP.*

### The Candidates for Union President:

**My name is Tom Donovan**, and I am running for re-election as the President of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps. It has been my privilege and honor to represent the JBLC for the last 4 years. During this time I have strived to represent the collective interests of all JBLC members.



We have made great strides that even in these most difficult of times have improved our working conditions. With a severe loss of funding from our state government that resulted in the closing of 2 beaches and 2 pools, I am proud to say not a single lifeguard lost their position. Our lack of a salary increase is of deep concern for me - as well as every JBLC member. We have successfully brought this travesty to the highest level of state government, the office of Governor Cuomo. We are still confident a satisfactory settlement will be reached.

I believe that your elected beach representatives along with your Executive Board have done an excellent job representing your wide and varied interests. The job of President is to lead and represent, not on just a few issues, but at all levels. In working with your Executive Board and beach representatives to achieve our objectives, I firmly believe that I have led the way.

*Here are examples of our many accomplishments:*

- Successfully decertified from our former union (NYSCOPBA) and joined the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and the United University Professionals (UUP).
- Created the New York State Lifeguard Corps (NYSLC), of which we are a chapter. I am currently 1<sup>st</sup> VP.
- Worked with NYSUT to establish legal representation for our members and to confirm our local working conditions.
- Established regular meetings with LI State Parks management and created solutions to work issues that involved no layoffs.
- Negotiated changes in beach management structure that focused on Chain of Command wherein Captains now report directly to the local Park manager.
- Established Voluntary Leave of Absence Program (VLOA) and continued development of our Medical Leave of Absence Program (MLOA); both VLOA and MLOA programs allow lifeguards to hold their position on the board while on leave.
- Oversaw writing of and affirmatively voted on new Constitution and By-Laws, which I follow as my guide.
- Confirmed our Seniority Rules as the method for beach assignment and transfer, eliminated involuntary transfers, and ensured that no first-year new hires were assigned directly to the ocean.
- Held regular monthly meeting all year long to work on local issues.
- Partnered with State and NYSUT to institute Management training workshops for all officers.
- Negotiated indoor swims for all rehire tests.
- Reaffirmed the practice of giving precedence to former lifeguards rejoining the Corps.
- We now have significant dues reimbursement from NYSUT, currently redistributed to the members by funding our competition teams, purchasing new racing equipment, expense reimbursements, stipends for you representatives,

interbeach race expansion, race T-shirts, race and holiday parties, plaques for retiring senior lifeguards and significant alumni.

- We have organized and participated in three rallies to “Save Our Parks”, and to bring to the attention of the public and our elected representatives about our lack of raises for so many years.

My future goals for the Corps will be to work with UUP and NYSLC to obtain a fair wage increase, including retro pay. Also we need to be included in the upcoming UUP contract by adding language to increase our benefits, including health benefits and disciplinary rights.

Additionally, we need to improve our local working conditions by having up to date and improved rescue equipment, modern rescue vehicles, proper staffing levels, wing stands that are structurally sound and light weight, and a track for our re-hire run.

I believe in the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps and all its members: We are the finest lifeguard groups in the world and should be recognized and compensated as such.

We have accomplished much during the past 4 years but there are still goals to achieve. At this time, continuity in thought, action, and leadership are critical for us to achieve our remaining goals. So I am asking for you to vote for me in the upcoming election for one more term as your JBLC Union President. Thank you.

**My name is Claudio Steel**; when it comes to Election Day for our local executive board, I ask for your support in electing me as JBLC Union President.



Being Union President is no easy task and I have had plenty of time to prepare for the duties of this position. For the past 3 terms, I have served as the beach representative for the Central Mall and have been very active in Union affairs. During this time, our current executive board has taken strides to improve our working conditions and relations with the State, however there are many conditions that still need to be remedied. I believe that this cannot occur without changes to the current executive board.

Many of our members have expressed frustration over the lack of assertiveness of our current President and of preferential treatment for those that share close relations with members of the executive board. We need leadership that is strong, assertive and trustworthy.

*I will make the following points clear in my campaign for President of the Executive Board:*

- Full transparency and disclosure of Union business for ALL members. No members should feel misinformed, treated as an outsider, or believe that we are reverting back to the “good ole boy” days of past union policy.
- Increased pressure on the State to stop unfair labor practices, improve working conditions, and to avoid interfering in our beach operations.
- Aggressive negotiations for our much deserved raise and benefits. Ten years is too long and eleven will not be tolerated.

I listen, and take the concerns of the general membership very seriously and will succeed in the areas that our current President has failed. Our members deserve an honest, aggressive leader, to move forward with the progress our organization has made in the last few years.

I promise to give you the dedication, honesty and integrity that you deserve and the changes you have asked for. On Election Day, vote Claudio Steel for JBLC Union President. Thank you.