

Re-Elect

Tom Donovan

President

Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps

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 1st 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, eliminated placement of “rookies” directly to ocean positions.
- 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, inter-beach 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 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.