

W I N T E R E D I T I O N 2 0 1 1

the Bucket & Buoy

Official newsletter of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps.

Editor: Cary Epstein

Happy Holidays!

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A Message from your Lifeguard President

Well, here we are at the end of another year. This morning the temperature hovered just above freezing and I used a scraper on my car windows. Yes, summer is gone for now, but on a positive note, there are



Save the Dates!

Thanksgiving
11/23/11

The usual spot
McSorley's in
NYC.

Holiday Party
12/18/11

Come spend the
holidays with the
best of the JBLC.

Polar Bear Dip!
1/1/12

Could you think of
a better way to start
the New Year? I
can't!



only 26 weeks until Memorial Day! I think for just about everyone, the summer of 2011 was a good one. For our new lifeguards, I hope your summer was great. Welcome to the job of a lifetime!

For all of us, there were many sunlit days, (perhaps too many!), a lot of rescues, (all successful) and a few days of good surf, (never enough, as always!) The water was clean, warm, and mostly jellyfish free. The beaches, bays, and pools were packed every weekend, as always.

The lack of weekend beaches at Jones Beach has become a real issue that needs to be addressed. Over-crowding the public is just not the answer to the budget issues.

What a waste to close the East Bath House Pool. Closed for over 10 years, finally, a few years ago our tax dollars were invested, the pool re-lined, and a beautiful pool was open to the public. Rented to camps during the week, the pool was a real asset. What a shortsighted vision to close the pool again.

West End 2, the "Jewel of Jones Beach", gone to most of the public.

Field One, an oceanfront weekend facility, closed!

The pool at Heckscher was closed this summer, and there are no future plans to rebuild it. All of those groups that for years planned their family gatherings at Heckscher now are either crammed into Sunken Meadow or leaving the State Park system. Another waste!

Over the top capacity crowds, with a severely lessened police presence, have just taxed the system to the max. Governor Cuomo and the Legislature need to address the severe deterioration of our parks. It is just astounding that our heavily taxed public would put up with the ongoing efforts to shut our park system down. Just astounding! Oh, yeah, and the fact that we have not had a raise in 10 years needs to be addressed also.

"We step up; it's time you step up!"



New York State Lifeguard Negotiation Update

The New York State Lifeguard Corps (NYSLC) Negotiation Team has met with the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER) five times over the past year. The team members are Bob Adler, Rich Malen, and Bruce Meiowitz from NYSLC; Peter Martinau of NYSUT, and Artie Shurtzer of United University Professionals (UUP).

Our NYSLC Negotiation Team deserves our sincere thanks for putting in numerous hours in prep meetings, long hours traveling to Albany, and intense hours in actual negotiations to seek a proper settlement for the work we have already done since 2003. The Team has been meeting directly with the Governor Cuomo's appointed chief negotiator Joe Bress. Mr. Bress has been completed contracts with the larger NYS unions, namely Civil Service Employees (CSEA) and Public Employees Federation (PEF). Negotiations are currently

underway for UUP, State Park Police, and NYSLC. We are cautiously optimistic regarding the negotiations and our future contract. The NYSLC Negotiation Team is diligently focusing on the contract periods for 2003 – 2007 and 2008 – 2011. Our meetings have been productive in establishing our priorities, seeking fairness, as virtually all other union workers have received, in across the board salary increases, and lost wages. The positive news is that the Governor has been settling contracts, and with the new Tax Legislation we might be in a better position to settle. UUP is currently working on settling their 2011 and forward contract which brings us closer to our settlement. We are also in alignment with NYS Park Police as they wish to settle their open contract from 2005. We look forward to a positive outcome in the near future with the goal to have a settlement in place to be voted on by the membership before Spring.

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Join us on FB & Twitter

Keep in touch with your lifeguard friends on & off season by following us on Facebook & Twitter!

Well its 2011 & the technology craze is here! Most of us these days are glued to social media networking. Even if you're not, you're still living in a world where most people are! If you haven't already joined us, join our facebook groups at (jones beach lifeguards....LIFEGUARDS FOR LIFE, & Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps.) Both pages are almost identical... it's a great way to stay in touch & both Mike Defina & myself post very relevant lifeguard information all year round! You can also follow us on twitter @jb_lifeguard and @NYSLC.

In Loving Memory of Chad Lundwall

Jones Beach Lifeguard/FDNY



Last week was certainly an emotional one for many of us. Lifeguard Chad Lundwall passed away suddenly. Chad was Boatswain at Jones Beach Field 6, and a member of FDNY Ladder 142. He was a son to Lieutenant Paul Lundwall, his wife Lynn, and brother to lifeguard alumni Britt and Kimberly. The wake and service were testimony to what Chad and the Lundwall's mean to the Corps. The thousands who stood on line for hours to pay their respects reflected how much we care. I could not help but reflect on the fact that we really are a family. One of our sons/brothers/friends passed away and we, as a group, were there to assist and comfort.

Chad was a lifeguard child who grew up on the beach. I remember Chad with all the other lifeguard children at West End 2. Back in those days the West End beaches were the place to be. The parking lot was full every weekend (hard to believe). Many of the lifeguards working there were newly married and having children. I can recall one day counting over 30 lifeguard children running around and playing together. Many of those children have grown to become lifeguards themselves. The crew from West End has moved on (mostly it seems to RM4/5), but the camaraderie remains, and they were there for the Lundwall's. So many of the lifeguards, whether it be WE2/WEBO, Field 6, West Bath House, Robert Moses, Sunken Meadow, or Hither Hills, were there to support the Lundwall family in their time of need. It was quite impressive. It was family, coming together, and supporting each other. We do that every year, year in, and year out. It is one of the things that define us and it makes me proud to be a member of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps. It should also inspire you. *-Tom Donovan*



President's Message continued....

Hurricane Irene really caused a mess. After some initial confusion and a real lack of direct communication from those we work for, our beaches did eventually re-open. With some parks closing earlier than others and the lack of guidelines as to what our roles would entail, the Union and your officers, proved again that we are an integral part of the LI State Park system. Quite frankly, if it were not for the lifeguards stepping up, some of the parks would have taken a lot longer to reopen for the public. Not everyone was happy with working in non-traditional lifeguard areas, but we did establish a method for lifeguards to be utilized and paid in catastrophic events such as hurricanes, and that will be helpful in the future.

Local discussions on working conditions continue. We are working on a change of venue for the re-hire and new-hire testing pool, as well as having a real track for our run. I will provide more information on this when the contract is finalized.

Our inter-beach races were again, as instituted last year, staged over a number of days, at both Jones Beach and Robert Moses. This year was the first time ever that races were held at RM5.

They were a success for those attending, but we are so far from having a universal effort to participate and to assist in staging these races. In a response to this issue, the Union is planning a totally different concept for the races this year. As the plans are only at the initial stage, I will hold off on further information on this for now. Cary Epstein and Mike Capobianco are spearheading this effort, and they will definitely need a lot of help, so think about stepping up. Hey, how about more than thinking about it, how about, as one of the finest Lifeguards who ever worked at Jones Beach, former Lt. Bob Davison (WE2, recipient of one of this years "Lifetime Achievement Awards") was oft to say:

"Just Do It".

For those who were privileged enough to attended the "Tribute to 911-10th Year Anniversary Ceremony" amid the lightning, squalling wind and rain at West Bath Pool, you will certainly have some memories for a lifetime. 100+ lifeguards standing in the pouring rain, saluting the flag, and listening to the "Star Spangled Banner", with real lightning flashing through the sky. It was quite emotional, patriotic, and inspiring.

"In every wave and every breeze, we remember."

President's Message continued....

The JBLC showed up at the USLA National Championships this year and finished in an equal 8th place, tied with Long Beach (LI), in the A Division (Large Group). Smith's Point (Suffolk County) again finished in first place in the B Division. Congratulations Smith's Point! We ended in a great place considering the competition, but there is definitely room for improvement. Our Junior's dominated so many events. Points are not scored in the Junior events, but if they were, JB probably would have been first! A big congratulation's goes out to all our Junior Lifeguard instructors for their ongoing efforts to train our future lifeguards! The Open and Age group events had JBLC lifeguards trying their best in many races. We medaled in a number of events, especially in age group and women, and as someone who did participate (no medal for me), it was all very challenging, competitive, yet still a lot of fun.

The 2012 USLA Nationals were to be held in L.A. this year, but evidently they were not able to meet the contract requirements in a timely manner, so Cape May, NJ has volunteered to be the host again this year. For those that did not attend last year, this would be a great opportunity to be a part of the JBLC team. For those that were there last year, I will expect to see all of you again this year.

I hope everyone has a wonderful time over the holidays. 2012 is just around the corner (26 weeks until Memorial Day!).

Your Union Representatives and Executive Board meet every month. Check the websites for updates.

Happy Holiday's, I hope to see all of you at our Holiday Party!

Yours in Solidarity,

Tom Donovan
President, JBLC
December 2011



Mobbed on Fox!

Central Mall Boatswain Cary Epstein will be featured on Fox's new hit show "Mobbed" coming in Jan. 2012. It's definitely something you don't want to miss. It airs on Wednesday nights at 9 starting January 4th. There will be a premier party in Rockville Center the night it airs, so stay tuned to your JBLC social networks for more information. Everyone is invited!



Cary & host
Howie Mandel

2011 Lifeguard Holiday Party

THE 2011 LIFEGUARD HOLIDAY PARTY WILL BE TAKING PLACE ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 18TH, 2011 AT SHOOTERS IN WANTAGH ON WANTAGH AVE. DOORS OPEN AT 4PM & THE PARTY GOES TILL 8PM OR WHENEVER YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE! THERE WILL BE A \$5 CONTRIBUTION AT THE DOOR. AS YOU WOULD EXPECT, THERE WILL BE FOOD AND DRINK SPECIALS! HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



New Years Day 2012 Polar Bear Dip

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON NEW YEARS DAY? ARE YOU HARDCORE JB? WANT TO BE PART OF THE JONES BEACH LIFEGUARD POLAR BEAR CLUB! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MEET US DOWN AT THE BEACH ON NEW YEARS DAY. 11:30AM WE MEET ON THE DECK AT FLD.6. AT 12 NOON...WE STRIP DOWN TO OUR WRAPPERS AND SUITS...LED BY REGGIE JONES WE DO A QUICK WARM UP JOG DOWN THE BEACH AND TAKE OUR YEARLY PHOTO AND PLUNGE INTO THE OCEAN! FEEL FREE TO BRING SOME FINGER FOODS, SNACKS AND OF COURSE HOT COFFEE, TEA AND HOT CHOCOLATE! USUALLY WE HANG OUT IN THE PARKING LOT OR ON THE DECK FOR A WHILE...SO DRESS

