



# The Bucket and Buoy

The Official Newsletter of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps Dennis M. Kane, Editor Aug. 17, 2010

## Rally # 2

**(Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to all our local legislators.)** To the honorable representatives of Nassau and Suffolk Counties of Long Island: During discussions with June Smith, Coordinator for VOTE/ COPE NYSUT, I was advised to contact you.

I am respectfully reaching out to you as the President of the New York State Lifeguard Corps (NYSLC), as a Vice President of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps (JBLC), and, most importantly, as a proud Long Islander who works with lifeguards who put their personal safety at risk in the ocean, bays, and pools to protect and serve the citizens of New York. We have been serving our fellow Long Islanders despite the fact that we have not had a new contract in eight years. The NYSLC is part of the United University Professions (UUP), NYSUT and AFT.

Long Islanders know the essential job that our Ocean Rescue Lifeguards perform, and you know on a first hand basis what we do; unfortunately, Albany does not. We have been in negotiations for over a year, and our negotiations process has stalled for no apparent reason. It is important for lifeguards to negotiate during our employment season, and eight years is too long to go without a successor agreement. It's time!

We are aware of the challenges in this economic environment. However, we are also aware that since July 2010, there have been at least two paybills approved by Governor Paterson. The Governor signed S.8254 / Chapter 150 (NYSCOPBA) and S.8412 / Chapter 152

(Council 82). I have also been informed that the SUNY Graduate Students Employee Union has a paybill that has been introduced by the Governor, has passed the Assembly, and awaits action in the Senate. This makes the 3rd NYS collective bargaining agreement in the last month, with no movement or meetings for the NYSLC. We are aware of no conflicts in our negotiations process. We are simply stalled for no apparent reason. Again, it's time!

We ask you to reach out to Governor Paterson, Bob Megna (DOB) and Gary Johnson (GOER) so that the NYSLC is treated in a fair and equitable manner to other state employee unions. I have attached a copy of the letter sent to Gary Johnson of G.O.E.R. which explains the progress up until now.

We have been diligent in performing our duty to the Long Island beach-goers. All we request is fairness and equity from the State. As fellow Long Islanders from Jones Beach to Montauk, we share a common goal of providing the best service we can to our neighbors. The Lifeguards have always been there for you. I respectfully ask that you to be there for us.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,

Bruce Meiowitz, President of N.Y.S.L.C.

Jones Beach Lifeguard for 43 years.

# Rally # 2

At the 8/11 BRA meeting, frustration with the delays in our negotiations were voiced and addressed. The Assembly agreed to the following plan.

1) If no settlement has been reached by August 16, Bruce Meirowitz will reach out to our lobbyist in Albany, to arrange for a meeting on August 26 in Albany with the people responsible for the delays.

2) At that meeting, we will make our case. To assist us in this effort,

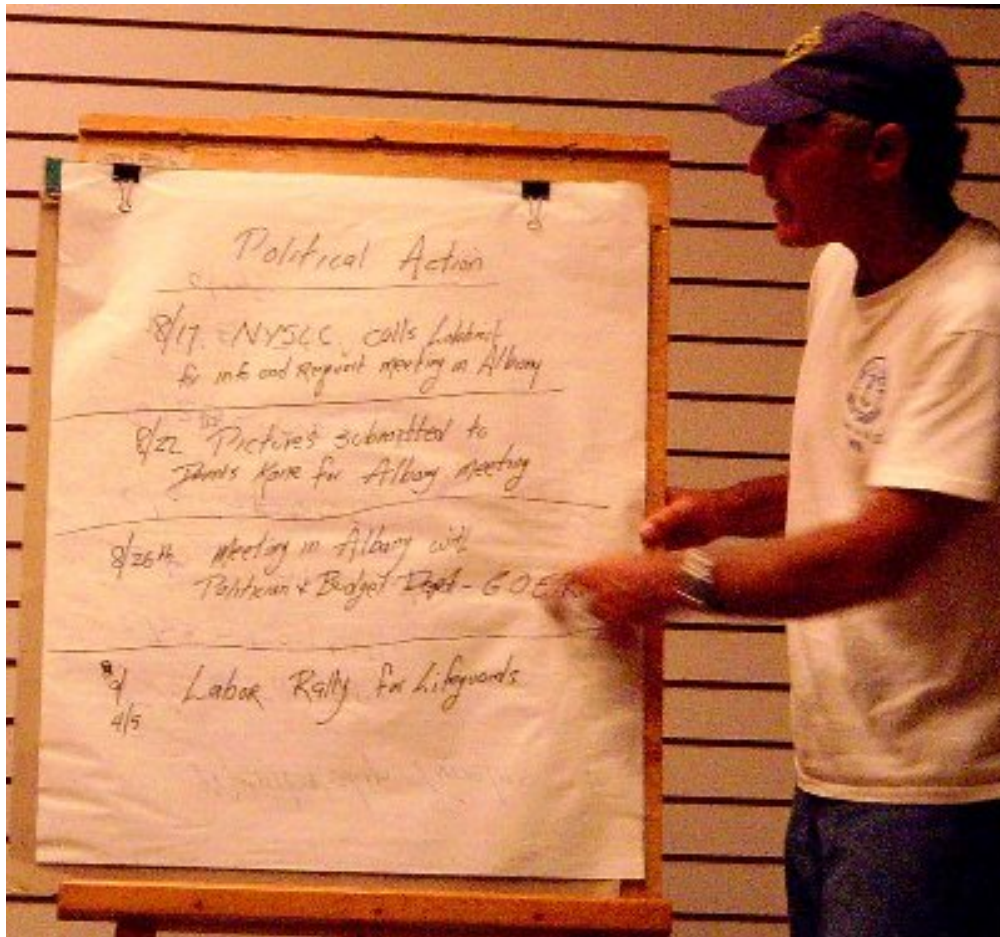
A) we are asking the JBLC to send all existing rescue pictures to dennismkane@yahoo.com, along with any info @ the victims.

B) Take pictures of any new rescues.

C) If you have any rescue numbers (dailies, etc.), send that as well.

All pictures MUST be in my hands by August 22. This packet will then be presented at the August 26 meeting. Among other things, we want to show them that we are more than just numbers on paper.

3) The second rally is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, either Sept. 4th or 5th. 200 shirts have already been ordered. A special BRA meeting about that event will be held at WBH on Wed. Sept. 1, at 7:30 PM



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All "Lifeguard 1's" should check in with their Personnel Office prior to terminating, to make certain they are eligible for promotion to "Lifeguard 2" in 2011.



Above: Winners of the 2010 JB / RM Volleyball  
Tournament: Brian Levings and John Norman



Left: In an attempt to lighten our wingstands and have a uniform construction, Bob Adler weighed numerous stands.

Below: RM 5 crew and children of assorted ages.



## Stay Connected

We encourage you to get into the habit of viewing each website. Some of the same information will appear on both sites. But each will also have content specific to its intended viewers.

The JBLC is a chapter of the NYSLC, so NYSLC news is pertinent to you as well.

For the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps website, click here: [www.jblc.net](http://www.jblc.net)

For the New York State Lifeguard Corps website, click here: [www.nyslc.net](http://www.nyslc.net)

# Emergency Response System Flawed

Three recent violent incidents put the spotlight back on the glaring flaws in State's emergency response system. In each event, JBLC guards were in physical danger, at Heckscher, Robert Moses and Jones Beach State Parks. Police response was minimal or non-existent. This is not their fault. They too have suffered cutbacks, and were doing the best they could with the officers they had. One incident involved a brawl, and only one policeman was responded after some time had elapsed.

In comparison, on Monday, Aug. 2, RM 5 lifeguards were asked to assist in looking for a man suspected of breaking into cars. We spotted him on the beach and alerted the police. Nine cars and one helicopter were involved in the search. What caused the difference in response? Simple. Patrons called the 911 system, and did not access our 200 system.

Too often, our calls into the 200 system are met with no answer, busy signals or someone questioning the legitimacy of our request. We are the experts. We are on scene. We know what we are doing. We should have direct and immediate contact to the Police and EMS, instead of the current system.

Earlier this year, Commissioner Carol Ash created a Violence in the Workplace policy, which is reprinted at the right. We call on the State to keep their promise to keep their workers safe, now.

## Leadership Meeting Schedule and Other Important Dates

**Executive Board Meetings** : Usually the Wednesday prior to BRA meetings, at Tom Donovan's home. These are open **only** to Executive Board members or invited guests. Meetings start at 7:00 PM. Reports from committees are presented at the EB meetings. The committee Chair is expected to present the report in person (or thru an alternate). Each committee has been assigned a month to make its report. **Next Meeting**: September 8, at 7:00 PM.

**Beach Representative Assembly (BRA) Meetings**: Usually the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at NYSUT offices, 1000 Woodbury Rd., Suite 214, Woodbury. Winter meetings are held at NYSUT at 7:00 PM , and Summer meetings (June through September) at 7:30 PM at WBH upstairs.

**Next Meeting**: Wed., Sept 1st at **7:30** PM, at WBH upstairs. This is an important meeting, as we will discuss the Labor Day rally.

**Cornacchia's Golf Outing**: Friday, August 20. (Date change) Contact Cornacchia or Jim Hamil.

**RM Cobra Kayak Contest**: Saturday, August 28, 7:30 AM, at west end of RM5. Alternate date (if no surf on 8/28): September 4. Contact Roy Reynolds at 631.885.1926.

**Check the [jblc.net](http://jblc.net) site for last minute updates.**

**New York State Office of Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

**WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICY**

The mission of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors, and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources.

In order to fulfill this mission, agency staff must be able to pursue their work-related responsibilities free from workplace violence. Workplace violence is generally defined by the New York State Department of Labor as a physical assault or act of threatening or aggressive behavior occurring where a public employee performs a work-related duty. OPRHP's objective is to take steps to prevent incidents of workplace violence and to respond to mitigate the effects of workplace violence if it does occur.

All supervisors and employees are responsible for maintaining a safe and secure workplace, utilizing safe work practices, fostering mutual respect, and following all policies, procedures, and health and safety program requirements.

The Director of Law Enforcement (for all Park Police personnel) and the Director of Health, Safety and Emergency Management (for Operations and non Park Police administrative staff) are responsible for the development and implementation of a workplace violence prevention program including provisions for completing a workplace violence hazard assessment with annual reviews, development of prevention strategies, and employee training. Opportunities shall be provided to authorized employee representatives to participate in the written program development, workplace assessments, and prevention strategy development in accordance with § 27-b of the state Labor Law.

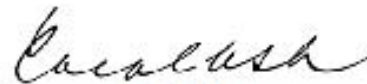
Any workplace violence incident that poses an immediate threat to an employee's or visitor's safety should be reported directly to the New York State Park Police or other local law enforcement entity and then to the employee's supervisor.

All other potential workplace violence instances such as threatening behavior or language should be reported directly to the employee's immediate supervisor. An employee who is unable to report a workplace violence incident to his or her immediate supervisor may report non-emergency incidents to the Director of Health, Safety and Emergency Management (for Operations 518 486-2922) or Director of Law Enforcement (for Park Police 518 474-4029).

A copy of this policy shall be conspicuously posted at each workplace.

This policy is effective immediately.

Dated: April 22, 2010



Carol Ash  
Commissioner



2010 Crew Photos: Above Left: RM 4; Above Right: EBHO; Below: 2010 JBLC Junior Lifeguards.

