



Bucket & Buoy

Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps: Saving lives since 1929



Presidential Address

Tom Donovan - President, JBLC

Welcome back! Summer of 2011, here we come!

After another long winter it is good to be here with our many co-workers and friends. I do hope everyone had a safe and healthy winter.

Your Union has been working all winter representing your interests. We met monthly and your beach reps did an excellent job attending and participating. We will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of every month: All lifeguards are encouraged to attend.

Over the winter we continued our discussions with the Senior Officers at two separate meetings. This year we expanded the meetings to include both Captains and Lieutenants. Our goals at these meetings were to discuss beach operational issues and how the Union can best represent any concerns to management.

One issue that had been raised last summer and discussed and agreed to at our fall Beach Representative meeting was overtime and how to consistently apply our work rule of hour up/hour down in an overtime situation. The Captains and Lieutenants all agreed with the Executive Board, the Beach Reps and our Legal Counsel that we MUST be consistent in the use of overtime. No Lifeguard should sit more than one hour at a time. There are many reasons for not sitting more than one hour at a time, and to ignore that by working back to back sits undercuts the entire concept of hour up/hour down.

OT can still be worked, but a schedule needs to be worked out so that proper back-up is available and no one sits more than one hour at a time. This issue will be further explained in detail in the future.

NYS has again short changed Parks with another cut in operating funds. This has now gone on for years and the Parks are starting to show it. As everyone knows LI was forced to close West End 2, Field 1, and the East Bath House Pool two summers ago. This year the Heckscher Pool will close. Evidently the pool is in need of extensive - and expensive - repairs and that is just not in the budget. We have been in talks with management to properly staff the Bay at Heckscher; hopefully they will not try and use this situation to reduce overall staffing levels.

1st Vice-President Bruce Meiowitz and I held numerous meetings with management over the winter. We brought many issues to their attention and I must say they have been very responsive to most of them. Here is a listing of some of the issues we resolved:

- Erosion correction at RM4/RM5 is currently underway and hopefully will keep those fields open for another year.
- The shack from WE2 has now been moved down front at JB2.
- Representatives from NYS will review all shacks this summer. Some of our shacks are in need of total replacement for structural, size, and electrical safety issues.
- New outerwear will be distributed to all returning lifeguards.
- Leave of Absence language has been agreed to. This provides guidelines for the continuation of this very important benefit.
- Continuation and expansion of Officer training for this year to include Boatswains.
- Violence in the Workplace training for all Lifeguards.
- Skin examinations by Dermatologist volunteers will be available at the 5/21 rehire test.
- All rehire tests will again be held indoors at NCCC with electronic timing.
- We have reached agreement that at next year's main rehire test (and all future main tests) if a running track is available at the facility it will be utilized. One of my concerns has been the potential for becoming hurt during the run, and running on a concrete parking lot is not the ideal place to stage a race. The track at Mitchell Field is close to NCCC, but is so popular it needs to be booked a year in advance. The application for that track has been submitted.
- A continuation of the policy of not placing new Lifeguards

- directly to the ocean (bypassing seniority) will continue.
- Increased security patrols and additional employee parking lot lighting at West Bath House.
- No layoffs, including officer positions.
- The portable trailer at West Bath House Pools will continue.

Bob Adler and Cary Epstein have been in discussions with management regarding changes to equipment. We hope to see progress in this area.

Our inter-beach races will be held again this summer. Look for updates on dates and places.

The National Lifeguard Championships are being held in Cape May, NJ in August. Jones Beach has every intention of placing first this year. Everyone is invited to participate and help bring the JBLC and our Juniors to the national level of recognition we deserve.

We will be raising funds for the purchase of a new racing dory. We look for your support in this worthy effort.

Summer Party's will be held; you are of course encouraged to attend!

We are on our way to another great summer. I speak for all the members of your Executive Board and your Union Representatives, in hoping for a safe summer for all our patrons and for our Lifeguards.



NYSUT Update

Tom Donovan - President, JBLC

The NYSLC has been in salary redress negotiations with GOER (Governor's Office of Employee Relations) for 2 years now. We did receive an offer from them in October. The offer was rejected outright by our negotiating team. The offer consisted of a small retro payment and no increase in salary. We now have a new governor in Albany and we have not only formally requested that GOER renew talks, but the UUP Political Action Team has met with the Governors Labor Counsel in an attempt to re-start the process.

A contract proposal was offered to Council 82, which did include a retro pay package from 2005 until 2007. (We are not the only group with outstanding raises). The contract was for 3 years and offered 0% raises and givebacks in sick time, plus increased contributions for health care.

The membership of Council 82 rejected the proposal 674 to 245. This sends a clear message to Governor Cuomo that poor contracts will not be accepted.

In addition to our financial proposal awaiting a reply from GOER, UUP's contract is due to expire in June. They will begin negotiations with Albany and whenever those talks result in an agreement, we will vote for that contract and, hopefully, future raises.

It is our hope, and we are still optimistic, that a settlement on our retro can be reached and that will increase our salary base, so that when the new UUP contract goes into effect we will benefit from our increases.



CPR 2011

Frank Salino, RM5

All Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps members must be certified in CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer or American Heart Association equivalent each year. The JBLC offers six sessions to recertify in pay status. You must hold a current certificate to attend one of these sessions. This year the American Red Cross has made several changes to past procedures; all course records are now submitted online, a new database system is in place (if your current card has a 7/11/11 or later expiration date-you can attend one of these classes, if not you must get recertified on your own), the course materials have been updated, and the cost has gone up from \$15 to \$25.

To be recertified you must attend one of the six classes and:

- Have a current American Red Cross or equivalent CPR/AED Pro card (dated 7/11/11 or later)
- Park in a marked parking spot
- Bring \$25 cash
- Arrive in time to sign-in (print name on payroll sheet), pay, and fill out information sheet
- All classes will start at 7:15 and end at 10:15
- Be present for the video/lecture
- Take and pass the written test
- Perform all skills with minimal assistance from instructors
- Get signature from instructor at each skill station
- Check out with head instructor (make sure payroll sheet, information sheet, and skill sheet are accurate and complete)

Class Schedule

Saturday, June 18.....Jones Beach West Bathhouse
Saturday, June 25.....Jones Beach West Bathhouse
Wednesday, June 29.....Robert Moses Field 4
Thursday, June 30.....Sunken Meadow East
Wednesday, July 6.....Jones Beach West Bathhouse
Saturday, July 9.....Jones Beach West Bathhouse



The 2011 Lifeguard Circuit Cary Epstein, CM

Welcome back everyone! It's been a long, cold winter, and I know we are all happy to be back at the beach. This summer we have a full schedule of events laid out for you so don't forget to mark your calendars! The United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) Regional Championships will be held on July 13th in Ocean City, Maryland and the USLA National Lifeguard tournament this year will be taking place in Cape May, New Jersey August 4th-6th!

This will be the first time in many years we are back in NJ for Nationals, and we want the JBLC to REPRESENT! How sick would it be if the members of the JBLC dominated all age group competitions? We are officially calling all lifeguards young & old...let's get out there and have some fun! NO more excuses...if you haven't been to a National Lifeguard Tournament yet...you are missing out on some of the greatest days...and even better nights of the entire summer! It's a 3 day competition but you don't have to stay for all 3 days. Come compete and then drive home...it's in NJ!

Let the knuckleheads on that MTV show take over Italy; we'll take over the Jersey Shore - maybe a quick stop in AC on the way home?! We really want to make the biggest national team in JB history this summer. We plan on purchasing JBLC National Team gear and the whole nine yards.

Be a part of history...and join Team JBLC in Cape May this August! Remember...if you want to compete you must first join the JB Chapter of the USLA!

Join the Jones Beach Chapter of the USLA

Questions? Contact the Chapter President Cary Epstein at JB Central Mall, ext 616 or via JonesBeachGuard@gmail.com

- \$40 for 1 year membership (make checks payable to "United States Lifesaving Association-JB") allows you to compete in USLA Sanctioned Lifeguard Competitions
- 1 year subscription to American Lifeguard Magazine
- Professional Membership Card, apparel, and much more!



Safety First

Cary Epstein, CM and Steve Levy, Alumni

This Summer Cary Epstein & Steve Levy will be spearheading the JBLC "Safety First" Campaign promoting the importance of safety at the beach. We will be putting out safety tips for spending the day at the beach, posting tips and beach info on our official "Safety First" Facebook and Twitter fan pages.

We also plan to publicize the Corps' efforts to promote "Safety First" initiatives via social and mass media channels. Did your crew make an incredible rescue? Did you just witness the greatest reuniting of mother and daughter after being lost for 4 hours? We want know it about - and we're certain the public and media want to know about it too! With connections at Newsday, News 12 and other media outlets, we will be using these to promote what we do.

It's about time the public really sees what we do. Maybe then they will understand why we deserve that pay raise!



A Better Rescue Line

Bob Adler (badlerclu@aol.com), RM3

For those of us who still use rescue lines, we are well aware of their limitations. Consistent quality manila line is no longer available; the thickness of the procured varies multiple times in a single length and causes problems when re-coiling back into the bucket - not to mention creating weak points that ultimately lead to snapping (usually during a critical time in a rescue). Manila also sinks, bows significantly, and is heavy when wet. With the rope typically deployed in short 75 to 100 yard lengths, the thinner diameter thickness causes the smaller coils to fall into the bucket and either takes longer to coil properly or fouls the line when it plays out of the bucket.

The yellow twisted polypropylene line has consistently tangled and UV degrades it quickly causing splinters along its outer surface. An alternative has been designed using modern polyethylene braid line and takes into consideration re-packing quickly into a container and preventing UV degradation.

During the Summer of 2010 each ocean beach at JB and RM had an opportunity to use these new buckets for at least a week. The newly designed Rescue Line Bucket should prove to be more effective...it is 133 yards of floating line with an exceptionally high breaking strength; is a brightly colored 5/16 inch braided polyethylene that provides high visibility even in heavy surf conditions; and the first 6 feet of line are colored black to prevent UV degradation even if continuously exposed to the sun.

The new line has an easy to remove polyethylene bucket cover with bungee and quick release snap or velcro to prevent UV degradation and keeps line in bucket to prevent tangling. It is easier and faster to swim out (even for us fat old men); minimizes bowing; is easier and faster to "re-pack" (**DO NOT coil**); and the new shoulder loop is more comfortable (and floats too).

We will be deploying more new equipment during the Summer; it's important that you try these new and innovative items - and send me your specific feedback.



Bill Foxen Dory Dedication

Dave Spence, RM2

On Saturday June 4th, 2011 at 10 AM at the West Bathhouse, a Van Dwyne Surf Dory will be dedicated to the Memory of Bill Foxen. We will start on the Terrace by the Bathhouse, then go down to the waterfront, and launch the boat on its maiden voyage. His huge, gregarious personality made him hard to resist, and the number of friends he had, from all walks and spectrums of life, is a testament to that. Bill, truly a gentle giant, will always be remembered as one of the great Lifeguard characters of all time. This initial journey into the surf - and the sharing of many Foxen stories - will be made more memorable by the attendance of past, present, and future Jones Beach Lifeguards!

Please spread the word to any Jones Beach Lifeguards and Alumni who will want to attend.



Junior Lifeguards

Scott Riegel (seafire124@aol.com), F6 (ext 618)

2011 Jones Beach Junior Lifeguard Program tryouts:

- Sunday, June 5, 8AM, West Bathhouse Pool for for children previously in the 2010 program ONLY
- Sunday, June 12, 8AM, West Bathhouse Pool for for children previously NOT in the 2010 program

As is always the case, we need Lifeguards - in *Pay Status* - to make this great program a success...and a commitment for nearly every Sunday morning for the length of the program (June 26 through August 7). We will also need many more Lifeguards - in *Pay Status* - for the 2011 Jones Beach Junior Lifeguard Tournament at the East Bathhouse Ocean to be held on Monday, July 11...be prepared to work.

More information can be found on www.JBLC.net under "Juniors."

Questions? Contact me via email or at Field 6.