

bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

July 10, 2005

One thing that is good about the 4th of July having passed – for now at least the food parties are over. I know here at Field Six, when we have a food party there is always a posting that says “*Bring a dish that feeds at least 10 people.*” Well you do the math. If everyone complies that means in order to finish the food we all have to eat enough for 10 people!

From what I saw in my travels it was no different elsewhere. There was food at every field in great quantities and it was all delicious. Pasta salads, barbeques, desserts etc. To make it worse everyone was generous to a fault. And I can’t understand why the swimsuit seems to be tighter. P.S. Fireworks were good too.



It was Field to Field Fabulous Fourth Food Feasts

LOCAL UNION ELECTIONS

We are about three (3) weeks away from the conclusion of the 2005 Union elections and the petitions are starting to get circulated. Remember there are 9 positions up including President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Trustee from Jones Beach, Trustee from Robert Moses, Trustee from the East End and Trustee at Large and the petition deadline is Aug. 1, 2005.

The Statewide position of Chief Sector Steward should also be nominated and voted on however, we are still waiting word back from NYSCOPBA as to the procedure.

We may have a problem with obtaining addresses to send the ballots to. We are asking the State to release their list but the proper way is for NYSCOPBA to give it to us. Unfortunately they don’t get their list from the State until September so that would do us no good. Since LI Parks has a current list now there is no reason to wait until September but we may have to go to PERB to get them to release it. We are hoping saner heads prevail. Stay tuned.

As far as the election committee, please contact Bob Lenti at Central Mall or Roy Lester at 516-357-9191 or Field 6 on weekends to volunteer.



Relief guards traveling from beach to beach for the Crew shots



Aly rescues a runaway board during yesterday storm – Note the airborne umbrella in the background – Photo by C. Coffin

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING

Last Sunday was our first Shop Stewards meeting of the year. The following beaches and their representatives appeared: RM2 – Scanlon; SM – Rogers; CM – Epstein; WBHO - Roaldsen; Fld. 1 – Graham; WHBO – T. Hirten; RM4 – Donovan; RM5 – Davy, Cash and Lundwall; WBHP – R. Hirten; Executive. Board. Curtin, Lester, Lieberfarb and Adler.

The first topic discussed was an update of the competition team by Mike Scanlon. He informed us that the Smith Point and the Newport Competitions are the only paid ones and that is limited to 2 days for anyone who competes. He promises to keep us informed of future developments and important dates.

The next topic was the major discussion of the meeting. It had to do with spots being saved on the beaches by Captains for guards that couldn’t or haven’t come back by full opening. After a lengthy and lively discussion it was understood by all that there is a difference between saving a spot for someone who has taken the rehire by full opening and saving a spot for someone who hasn’t. The general consensus was that if a Captain can cover for someone who is late coming back for a week or two (“cover” meaning that all the late returning lifeguard’s shifts are covered by part timers working a third day) there generally isn’t a problem as long as that person has taken the test by full opening. If they haven’t, then absent extraordinary circumstances (such as injury) their name should be removed from the “Board” and that position opened to a lifeguard who wants to move.

There was also discussion as to the process for medical leave and the number of people eligible for it. It was explained that over the last two years the State unilaterally has expanded the number and eased the procedure to make more people eligible. We explained that once we became aware of what the State had done we wholeheartedly endorsed the changes as it was an expansion of what we had previously negotiated.

It was also decided that we will try to put together a manual with all these procedures and post it on the website to avoid future confusion. (Thanks Steve Levy for volunteering.)

We also discussed interbeach races which Mark Davy will be helping with and voted on using our special funding from NYSCOPBA that we received last year to help pay for the Race awards and the after race party.

We brought up the plans we are proposing to the State to get WEII reopened (campers) and the RM guards brought up the fact that if you open a beach and don’t tell anyone it probably won’t get used. (i.e. RM4) We agreed to ask the State to post signs at RM to indicate the weekdays that RM4 is open.

Finally SM explained how badly they need a new shack, how they need a new dolly for their jet-ski and how much they need a boat there. We agreed to approach the State on this.

(over)



No easy task handing out 100's of Jr. Lg. Uniforms

JR. LIFEGUARD UPDATE

By Scott Riegel

Off to another incredible turnout for the Junior Lifeguard Program. Personal thanks to all lifeguards who work as Team Leaders and Assistant Trainers and plan on helping every Sunday; however, we still need many *more lifeguards* to assist with the Program – contact Scott at Fld 6 or through the email below.

The *Second Annual Jones Beach Junior Lifeguard Tournament* will be held at the East Bathhouse ocean front on Monday July 18 at 10AM. For this event to be a success, we require the services of quite a few lifeguards. Part-timers are allowed to work an additional day in pay status working from 8:45 to 4:15; full-timers must receive permission from their Field to participate (or volunteer on your time...heck, we'll even throw you a t-shirt). If you have any questions, please contact me at Field 6 or by email at seafire124@aol.com.



Look at all the lifeguards Eddie had to feed at Corinne & Mike's wedding – Congrats and the Best of Luck to you two!

NOTES AND OTHER TIDBITS

Openings: For some strange reason, no matter how many times we say it people still don't seem to get it – IF YOU WANT TO MOVE FROM YOUR CURRENT POSITION GET YOUR NAME INTO THE COORDINATOR'S OFFICE!

Openings occur all the time on both the ocean and still water and the people who fill them are taken from the list the coordinators keep. Names can be added on to the list at any time but moves are taken from the list as it exists on that day. If you see someone with less seniority get a position that you wanted and your name was not on the list at the time of the move you have no one to blame but yourself. Be guided accordingly.

Crew Photos: By: Cary Epstein - Thanks for everyone who helped make the the July 4th crew photos run so smoothly. At www.printroom.com/pro/danielgoodrich you can view and order your pictures online. Stayed tuned for the date and time for the largest lifeguard corps photo ever!

Art World News: Chris Coffin (F6) will be showing his new 6 minute video piece entitled, "BOATS" at the Islip Art Museum from June 29 - September 11, 2005. The opening reception is on July 24th from 1-4. Directions to the museum can be found at: www.islipartmuseum.org

The group show, curated by Judy Collischan explores the theme of boats in all its guises-as ships, barges, sailboats, ferries or yachts-and in allegorical, metaphorical or symbolic terms.

Shop Stewards Meeting
Sunday, July 17, 2005 - 10:15 a.m. - WBH
Meeting Room. Make sure your beach is there!

See us on the web at www.jonesbeach.com or www.jblifeguard.com -Till next time - Roy J. Lester - e-mail: BucketBuoy@AOL.Com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor: There are three entities that affect our working conditions: Administration, Water Safety Office, and Captains. Each group has a direct influence on our everyday tasks. In recent years the Executive Board has had Captains on it. This situation of having Captains on the board has forced these union members to wear two Hats which has cause conflicts to arise. One Beach Captain [board member] had a personnel problem at his beach. He was put in the dilemma of which Hat should make the decision. After a few days he changed his decision. Was this because of the two Hat dilemma? Now, because of this particular incident we have life-guards being sued, harassed, and threatened. It has brought an ugliness onto the beach that is "Out of this worlddddd!"

We also have observed a Still Water Captain [board member] that allows a controversial Pool Lieutenant not to be put on the sit schedule [against WSO policy]. This Lieutenant has been seen sitting comfortably in the WSO numerous times. Rumor has it that he can't walk on the beach rocks at Wildwood and probably needs a soft comfortable chair for his tushee.

Let us all rethink before the coming election about the situation of having Captains on the Executive Board. We should not put these dedicated members in a two hat catch 22! - Jim Dirico - RM2

Dear Jim: While you make some good points I think that in today's world most of us wear at least two hats. Every parent does that double duty as a loving parent and the family disciplinarian. In fact, in life two or more hats are extremely common place. The measure of a person is not how many hats they wear but how well they remember what hat they are wearing when they make crucial decisions affecting others.

There are many benefits to having Captains on the Executive Board. Their longevity shows their dedication. Their experience and knowledge are immeasurably beneficial. Their sense of history of the Corp can not be found in younger guards. But that said, the two hat position can become a dilemma.

All I am saying is when you judge a person, judge them by their actions, not their position. – Roy Lester – F6



Watch us make them talk without moving our lips

THE COMICS

A wise old gentleman retired and purchased a modest home near a Junior High School. He spent the first few weeks of his retirement in peace and contentment. Then a new school year began. The very next afternoon three young boys, full of youthful, after-school enthusiasm, came down his street, beating merrily on every trash can they encountered. The crashing percussion continued day after day, until finally the wise old man decided it was time to take some action.

The next afternoon, he walked out to meet the young percussionists as they banged their way down the street. Stopping them, he said, "You kids are a lot of fun. I like to see you express your exuberance like that. In fact, I used to do the same thing when I was your age. Will you do me a favor? I'll give you each a dollar if you'll promise to come around every day and do your thing."

The kids were elated and continued to do a bang-up job on the trashcans.

After a few days, the old-timer greeted the kids again, but this time he had a sad smile on his face. "This recession's really putting a big dent in my income," he told them. "From now on, I'll only be able to pay you 50 cents to beat on the cans."

The noisemakers were obviously displeased, but they accepted his offer and continued their afternoon ruckus. A few days later, the wily retiree approached them again as they drummed their way down the street.

"Look," he said, "I haven't received my Social Security check yet, so all I can give you is 25 cents. Will that be okay?"

"A freakin' quarter?" the drum leader exclaimed. "If you think we're going to waste our time, beating these cans around for a quarter, you're nuts! No way, dude. We quit!" And the old man enjoyed peace and serenity for the rest of his days.