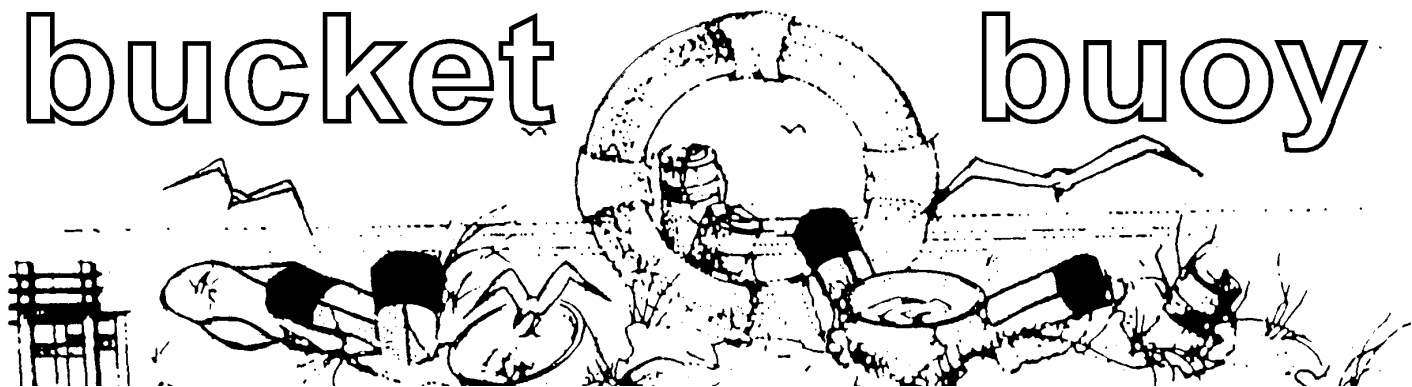


bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

July 3, 2005

One of the hardest parts about writing is when one has to try to present two sides to an argument in a fair and rational manner even when they believe passionately in only one side. That is the position I find myself in this week as I try to explain an issue that has arisen and has shown the great differences of opinion present in the Executive Board.

Prior to getting into the issue I want to be clear on one thing – this is not the first time nor will it be the last time the Executive Board disagrees. Although the feelings run strong on this issue this Executive Board, after hours of arguing (and sometimes shouting) takes a vote on the issue and it is decided strictly by a majority. One man one vote no matter what your position. Whatever the majority decides the entire board goes along with and no grudges are kept. Although it sucks to lose a vote, especially when you feel strongly about something, accepting the vote and moving forward is the mature way to conduct business. Now if we could just get Congress to grow up!

But anyway, back to the issues at hand. The first issue deals with the night of the draft, when the coordinators gave up one of their ocean slots to accommodate someone who had been stuck in the pool for a longer than usual time. For those that don't know, the coordinators office gets to reserved ocean front spots for new lifeguards. The number that they get to reserve is still up in dispute. Our records indicate six (6) slots should be held aside, the coordinators say it should be nine (9). Nevertheless after the night of the draft the coordinators had 8 ocean front positions open that they could fill with new hires.

Where this becomes an issue is with the people who have been stuck in still water for several years. If not for the reserved slots nine (9) more people could move out to the ocean. While we understand that, years ago the union voted to leave slots open for the new hires because we found that many would not come here if they knew they had NO shot of going to the beach that year. But the concern for the still water guards is why we limited the number to six (6) new guards.

What happened this year was that the coordinators, after giving up a slot decided to take two (2) **additional** slots for new hires. This had the effect of not only breaching our agreement but also of taking away the opportunity of two (2) guards stuck in still water to move to the ocean.

When we complained to the State about this we were told that they "would look into it" but as of yet that still has not been done. We already have so many grievances going against the State for violating their own agreements that I guess they figured one more won't matter.

Where the board has a disagreement is the issue of allowing exceptions to our rules. Our past history has shown that every time we make an exception to the rules it seems to come back to bite us. The State seems to take the position that an exception changes the rules and therefore they no longer have to adhere to that rule. On the other hand, exceptions have helped many people who have found themselves in a tough position due to unique circumstances. Unfortunately, making an exception to help one person retain a spot contrary to the rules hurts the next person in line for that spot and so on down the line.

The same issue arose regarding those members who have yet to take the rehire test. The Executive Board had made an agreement with the State that anyone who did not take the rehire test by full opening would be replaced on the board. The purpose for this was to make sure that beaches are properly staffed and those positions are filled. A result of this decision is that those guards who are waiting for ocean positions would now have an opportunity to move. This agreement was publicized in the **B&B** and was told to anyone who asked the Union for an exception. Unfortunately, the State, who was a party to this agreement, had already promised exceptions to a couple of people and then failed to notify them when the agreement was made. In another case a weekend lifeguard who had planned to take the test on opening day had an appointment come up and did not show for the rehire.

The question now before the Executive Board is whether to

permit another exception to what we agreed and what we advertised or have some lifeguard lose his spot and end up who knows where.

The arguments on both sides have merit. Exceptions help those that need them and "there but for the grace of God" go you or I. It might be us one day that need the rules bent and we all hope an exception will be made for us then. On the other hand there are many lifeguards who play by the rules and when an opportunity to move comes up because someone didn't follow the rules why should they be denied the opportunity to move.

From a Union administration point of view it is always easier when rules are followed. People know what to expect and what to do to get the positions. They expect that if they follow the rules they will be given the opportunities.

However, from a Union political point of view it is easier when exceptions are allowed because people who get jammed up can be helped outside of the normal course of business.

The question is what is better in the long run? Ultimately it is a decision every Union eventually has to make. I just hope we make the right one.



Central Mall smiles on full opening day – Home at last

LOCAL UNION ELECTIONS

Every two years we have an election for our local union officials and this is one of those years. 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.

The petition should read as follows: *We, the following members of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corp, nominate [Name] for the position of [position]:* - This should be followed by at least 20 signatures of current lifeguards. These petitions must be turned into the election committee by the close of the beach on July 17, 2005. That election committee (which we are currently forming) will then conduct the balloting by mailing out the ballots along with two envelopes (one blank to go inside the returned ballot's envelope).

The ballots must then be returned to the committee postmarked no later than August 1, 2005. That committee will then count the ballots and announce the results the weekend of August 6-7, 2005 and the new officers will take over immediately.

The Statewide position of Chief Sector Steward should also be nominated and voted on however, as seen in the following article, there is still much uncertainty when it deals with NYSCOPBA.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer for the election committee please contact Bob Lenti at Central Mall or Roy Lester at 516-357-9191 or Field 6 on weekends.



Admiral K. Adler before her Naval Academy days



Come on Eddie, do I really need to turn my head while you put your shorts on?



Picture by Cary – Rookie Class of 2005 with Trainers

NYSCOPBA AND THE CORP

As many of you are aware, our parent Union has been undergoing many changes over the winter. For years there has been open and sometimes bitter dissension about their leadership. Down here on Long Island the police that NYSCOPBA used to represent were able to successfully petition to get out of the unit and our application to decertify has languished in front of PERB for many months now. The entire Union has been living under an expired contract for several years and resolution doesn't seem to be any nearer.

From our point of view, although we have been promised better representation, we have seen nothing to indicate our problems are being addressed. We've had grievances still unheard from last summer even though they are supposed to be scheduled within 10 days, we have seen no indication our contract concerns have been addressed, it appears the State blatantly violated our HIPA rights in releasing private medical information on lifeguards and our requests to NYSCOPBA to address this has gone unanswered and yet they continue to take our money from us every paycheck. Don't we all wish we could get paid for doing nothing!

In all fairness to NYSCOPBA, they have had an issue as to which law firm is representing them which has slowed up much of their responses and now with elections undecided not much work has been able to get done.

This year however, NYSCOPBA has taken their representation of us to a new low. They are now claiming that the only people that we can elect to represent us in our own Sector (Lifeguards) are one of the dozen or so year round lifeguards that lifeguard the pools in NYC or nearby.

For years they have taken the position that although we can vote for our Sector Stewards as seasonals we can not vote for the people who will represent us in NYSCOPBA including the officers in the Law Enforcement Bargaining group. (NYSCOPBA is broken down into two groups, Correction and Law Enforcement. Since we are not Correction we are placed in Law Enforcement.)

That position is easy to understand considering that so far only 464 votes have come in for the entire Law Enforcement group. Since there are over 1100 seasonal lifeguards the people in power in NYSCOPBA see how allowing lifeguards to vote could easily change the outcome of an election.

This year NYSCOPBA extended our inability to vote to include our own Sector Stewards. Even though the Lifeguards down on Long Island have Doctors, Lawyers, Teachers and other professionals in their ranks we are being told that the best people to represent us are year round pool lifeguards. I guess they are afraid that if we elect our own representatives, they might question what we are getting for the hundreds of thousands of dollars in dues we keep turning into NYSCOPBA.



Bswn. Jackie figuring out the perfect pool protection plan

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

NOTES AND OTHER TIDBITS

Openings: There are now two Boatswain positions open, one at RM2 and another at a Pool. These movements will create other movements!!! If you want out of where you currently are or want a promotion get your name and desire to the Coordinators office immediately (or no later than the close of business Wednesday July 7, 2005).

Interbeach Races: We are trying to schedule this year's races for the first week of August. We would also like to order this years race T-shirts early so that we have them for the Post-Race party. We are looking for a design. If you have any artistic talent and want your ideas/art to live forever, get your design to us with the next two weeks.

Lifeguard Coverage: Recently a group of 50 Master Swimmers sought a permit to swim from Field 6 to the Central Mall for an open water swim practice. The State replied (in writing) that in order for 50 swimmers to enter the water they needed thirty (30) lifeguard personal at \$24.00 an hour to watch them and set up the equipment. Finally the State is realizing the proper number of lifeguards to watch swimmers. According to this document we are grossly underpaid according to what the State tells the public we are paid and grossly understaffed according to what the State considers safe lifeguarding. I am sure this document will surface next time the State argues that we have enough lifeguards and I hope it never falls into the hands of an attorney suing the State for inadequate lifeguard coverage

Last Chance before Termination: CPR/AED - Last chance to get it. Do not call, or e-mail-just show up! 7/6 at West Bathhouse, 7/7 at Sunken Meadow East, all at 7-10 PM. Be on time, bring \$15 cash, park in designated spots, and shut up!!!- **NO ONE wants to be there, everyone has other stuff they would rather be doing and its tough shit if you waited till the last two classes and they are hot and crowded.** – Frank Salino



Hundreds of Juniors LGs warming up at the EBHP

THE COMICS

Quasimodo goes to a doctor for his annual checkup. "I think something is wrong with your back," the doctor says.

"What makes you say that?" Quasimodo asks. "I don't know," the doctor replies. "It's just a hunch."

* * * * *

According to the National Sleep Foundation, 75% of adults say they have problems sleeping. The poll used a random sample of 1,506 adults who were called in the middle of the night.

* * * * *

A Young boy was lost in the mall. He ran over to a police officer.

"I've lost my dad!" he said.

"What's he like?" the cop asked.

"Baseball and beer," replied the boy.

* * * * *

I have a room in my house, full of mirrors. Sometimes I go there to reflect.

* * * * *

Did you hear about paranoid dyslexic? He always thought he was following someone.