

# bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

July 31, 2005

Every 2 weeks when you get a paycheck you find that more than \$17.00 has been taken out of it so that it can be sent to your State mandated representative NYSCOPBA. Over the course of a summer this comes out to over \$100,000.00 for the lifeguards that NYSCOPBA is supposed to represent.

Lifeguarding is, in most cases, a seasonal job. In fact, of the 1200 lifeguards that NYSCOPBA is supposed to represent, only about 8 of them who work in a year round pool are considered full time employees.

NYSCOPBA is made up of about 60 different facilities, such as Attica, Fishkill, etc. Included in that list is the facility of "Lifeguards" consisting of all the lifeguards employed by NYS. Each of these facilities has a Chief Sector Steward to represent its members in NYSCOPBA's Executive Assembly and in Albany.

NYSCOPBA's Constitution states that in order to be a Sector Steward one must be a member in good standing for the previous six month period. One can't be a member in good standing unless they are employed. Thus, by a literal reading of the Constitution 99.5% of the Lifeguards are precluded from holding a Sector Steward office.

We brought this inequity to the attention of the NYSCOPBA when we were first placed with them in 1999. We were assured that Lifeguards would have the right to elect one of their own seasonals as Sector Steward and thus there was no need to change the Constitution.

We relied on that promise and NYSCOPBA kept their word in every election until 2005. Although, because of our seasonal status, we were not allowed to vote for any other Union officials (including the officers of "Law Enforcement," the subsection of NYSCOPBA we are in - even though we are the biggest group in that subsection) for six years NYSCOPBA seemed to acknowledge the inequity and possible illegality of attempting to deny us the right to vote for our own Steward.

Everything seemed to change this year. Secretly and behind our backs NYSCOPBA only sent out nomination forms for the Sector Steward position to the eight or so year round lifeguards. The other approximately 1192 lifeguard were deliberately kept in the dark. When we asked NYSCOPBA about the Sector Steward election we were told "we're working on it" with no further information. We were aware that this might happen but our inquiries to NYSCOPBA officials were left unanswered.

This week we found out that NYSCOPBA appointed a new Sector Steward, a year round pool lifeguard from Staten Island. When we asked how this could have happened we were told that he was the only one who had filled in a nomination form.

Although we still have the ability to negotiate on LI (until they try to screw us out of that right) the fact that they took away our representation in Albany is, in my opinion, one of the most blatant "failures to represent" I have ever come across. At least previously we were made aware of any deal made in Albany that might affect us. Now we have to rely on a Staten Island pool lifeguard to protect our interests.

When we found out that this was a fiat accompli we informed Keith Zulkow (the new head of Law Enforcement and from all indications so far, a decent and concerned Union official) of our intentions to file an "Improper Practice" with PERB charging a "failure to represent." Keith asked us to hold off because he is meeting with the NYSCOPBA election committee this Tuesday to try to correct this glaring inequity.

We were also told that Jerry DeWitt (the Law Enforcement Business Agent) will be down this Sunday to attend our shop stewards' meeting. Jerry, too, is a decent hard working official who seems genuinely concerned about our predicament.

At this point all we can do is give Keith and Jerry a few days to straighten out this mess. There is a new Executive Board in at NYSCOPBA that claims to be sympathetic to our plight. They have brought in a negotiator for the master contract that represented us in our first decertification fight (Mike Alexrod). They reelected (as Vice President) the past President that made the promises to us. All they are asking is a few days. I think we should give it to them.



*A totally unrehearsed shot of East Bathhouse Crew*

## LOCAL UNION ELECTIONS

By now every beach has received their ballots. Although the ballots were distributed early to make sure everyone received them in time to vote I don't think it was anticipated that so many would vote so early. From what we have heard the turnout is the heaviest in memory with just about 100% participation. Of course reports are coming in that people are still doing the envelopes wrong. It's really simple - **mark the ballot and place it in the smaller envelope, seal it and then place the smaller envelope into the bigger envelope. The bigger envelope must then be sealed and your name printed and signed across the seal. Unsigned ballots will not be counted!** The ballot envelope must then be returned to your shop steward or Andy Hlavak or Susie Tighe-Foti no later than close of business August 3, 2005.



*Wall to wall boards - WBHO and the definitive surf rack*

## RM 5 VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

*By Scott Davern*

The annual RM 5 Lifeguard Volleyball Tournament will take place this year on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. The rain date will be the following day (Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>). All participating players must be current, active Jones Beach lifeguards. All participants must be ready to play promptly at 9:00am. If your team is scheduled to play and your team is not ready to play within 10 minutes of the start time you will forfeit that game. If the team is not ready to play in the following ten minutes the team will forfeit the second game. Lifeguards must be "Off Duty" to participate in this event. The preceding rules are necessary to ensure that the event runs as smoothly as possible.

There will be a \$20 fee (cash only) submitted to Scott Davern, Ase or Udo at RM 5. This is a "first come, first reserved" event. The event is limited to the first 20 teams. In order to reserve your spot you must submit this fee, no fee/no spot. The money will be refunded to you if you need to drop out, as long as you let us know by Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> or if you/we can find a team to take your spot. The \$20 will go towards purchasing drinks/food/trophies (winning team).

This is a fun and exciting lifeguard event. The event is of course open to men, women, and co-ed teams of any level. There will be an after tournament party at the RM 5 shack. This is a great opportunity to meet some new guards and have some fun. If you have any concerns contact Scott Davern at RM 5 (631-669-0449). Be sure to ask for RM 5.



*The Jr. LG staff try to lecture 100's of JR's at time*

## INTERBEACH RACES UPDATE

Just a couple of quick updates on this week's races; Ed Peters has figured out a formula to handicap the 10 person ocean relay according to combined age. The older the combined ages the more of a head start that team gets. The formula is as follows:

Under 200-----	0 (base time)
Under 250-----	11 seconds
Under 300-----	26 seconds
Under 350-----	35 seconds
Under 400-----	35 seconds
Under 450-----	60 seconds
Under 500-----	55 seconds
Under 550-----	90 seconds
Under 600-----	97 seconds
Under 650-----	122 seconds
Over 650-----	164 seconds

On another front Mark Davey has called every field at Jones Beach, RM, and outer parks. He has reps from each beach that will correspond with him as to who will participate. His email address is [mad090@aol.com](mailto:mad090@aol.com) for those that want to help or need information. Mark is asking that all fields to contact him or stay in touch. He has left his cell phone number with each field so there should be no excuses of "Oh we didn't know."

## INTERBEACH RACE SCHEDULE

**Thursday, August 4th at Robert Moses 2 (Sunset 8:08 pm)**  
 Surf Rescue 5:45 p.m. 1 Man Line Pull 6:00 p.m. 2 Man Line Pull 6:15 p.m - Run Swim Run 6:30 p.m. - Beach Flags (All Age Groups) (Prelim.) 6:45 p.m. (Finals) 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, Aug. 5th at East Bathhouse Ocean (Sunset 8:06 pm)**  
 Iron Man 5:30 p.m. - Individual Kayak Race 6:00 p.m. - Individual Surfboard Race 6:15 p.m. -. Kayak Relay 6:45 p.m. - 2 Mi. Run (All Age Groups) 7:00 p.m. 10 Guard Ocean Relay (Handicap by Total Age) 7:20 p.m.

**Saturday, August 6th at East Bathhouse (Sunset 8:05 pm)**  
 Surfboat Race 6:00 p.m. - Board Relay 6:15 p.m. -. Surf Swim (All Age Groups) 6:30 p.m - 10 Guard Running Relay 7:00 p.m. - Tug of War 7:30 p.m. Pool Races (All Age Groups) 8:00 p.m. - Pool Relay 8:30 p.m.

**PARTY AFTERWARDS- Food, Beer & Music**



*Cpt. Dick and Bsw. Lee make a guest appearance at the CM*

See us on the web at [www.jonesbeach.com](http://www.jonesbeach.com) or [www.jblifeguard.com](http://www.jblifeguard.com) -Till next time - Roy J. Lester - e-mail: [BucketBuoy@AOL.Com](mailto:BucketBuoy@AOL.Com)



*So what if I'm getting my butt kicked; these shades are soooo cool*

## Shop Stewards Meeting

**Sunday, Aug. 14, 2005 - 10:15 a.m. - WBH Meeting Room. Make sure your beach is there!**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor: July 22<sup>nd</sup> was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bucket & Buoy. The original author/editor Dennis Kane trusted me with the actual original we used to run off the copies. I have attached a scanned copy. I believe it is spirit of the guards of all ages that Dennis has returned to the beach this year (RM2). (See the original at [www.jblifeguard.com](http://www.jblifeguard.com).)

Roy, I am hoping you post this on the site for all to see. You can print copies if you wish. On page 2 there's an article on the 1975 WEO Rescue after a man was washed off the jetty. Jim Zellner, Joe Field, Bruce Mierowitz and Tom Grunke were involved along with a Coast Guard Boat!! A final piece has Ed Peters and Greg Akula pinning themselves under their boat in one foot of shore break. I spoke with Ed a day later, and as funny as it seemed, Ed told us they both thought they were going to drown. The suction water created between the sand and the rim of the boat nearly killed them.

I hope this piece of history will bring memories to some and a picture of the past to the young guards. - Kevin Tumey

## CLASSIFIED AD

**Apartment for rent in Mineola/Williston Park. Two Bedrooms, One Bath, large formal dining room, living room, eat in kitchen, private laundry room, off street parking - Includes heat and hot water - Tenant pays electric and cable - Recently renovated kitchen - New windows throughout - Asking \$1800/mo. - Call Bob Delsignore CM x 616 or Call at 516-510-3015 - Immediate occupancy available.**

## THE COMICS

One day a cat dies of natural causes and goes to heaven. There he meets the Lord Himself. The Lord says to the cat, "You lived a good life and if there is anyway I can make your stay in Heaven more comfortable, please let Me know." The cat thinks for a moment and says, "Lord, all my life I have lived with a poor family and had to sleep on a hard wooden floor." The Lord stops the cat and says, "Say no more," and a wonderful fluffy pillow on a really soft cat bed appears.

A few days later, six mice are killed in a tragic farming accident and go to heaven. Again, the Lord is there to greet them with the same offer. The mice answer, "All of our lives we have been chased. We have had to run from cats, dogs and even women with brooms. Running, running, running; we're tired of running. Do you think we could have roller skates so we don't have to run anymore?"

The Lord says, "Say no more," and fits each mouse with beautiful new roller-skates.

About a week later the Lord stops by to see the cat and finds him snoozing on the pillow. The Lord gently wakes the cat and asks him, "How are things since you got here?"

The cat stretches and yawns and replies, "It is wonderful here. Better than I could have ever expected. And those 'Meals On Wheels' you've been sending by are the best."