

bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

July 16, 2006

Last night I happened to catch Channel 21 with a show on Jones Beach featuring, of course, Reggie Jones. And of course the commentator had to expose as untrue that Jones Beach was actually named after Reggie Jones. In fact what the program did point out was that Jones Beach was named after Thomas Jones, a whaling boat Captain with a secret life as a part-time plundering pirate.

What a great way to segue into a brief update on our continuing battle with NYSCOPBA. As you may remember, last week I asked about a grievance where a decision supposedly came down without us knowing about it. Turns out NYSCOPBA was wrong and our 1999 grievance still has not moved forward. In fact, the grievance we sent up on the 22nd of June still hasn't moved forward.

Finally as to the membership cards, I was told by Larry Flanagan, President of NYSCOPBA that regardless of what Keith Zulko says, NYSCOPBA requires a change of the Constitution before we can vote or be elected Shop Stewards.

Note: Our condolences to Conners brothers (OP and RM5) on the recent loss of their father. Our prayers are with them.



WBHO - Standing tall under the watchful eye of the Hawk

MY NEXT TO LAST CPR RANT

by Frank Salino

By now, many of you are sick of me. I have heard that many of you are pissed off at me for being tough on you at the CPR re-certification classes. Too Bad !!! For six years now we have been giving CPR/AED classes during the summer, after work, in pay status. Each year we have offered six chances to take these classes. Each year some of you fail to show up and get signed out and miss work. As Homer Simpson says "DUOHHH !!!!!".

For the past five years all of the classes have a 7/11 date. Easy to remember. Gives you a few weeks after full opening to schedule a class. We have about 485 lifeguards and this year we taught about 415 of you. That means about 70 of you get CPR/AED on your own.

Each of the lifeguards who did attend a CPR/AED class this year should get three hours extra pay for the week they attended; check your records and pay stubs. We will be making a charitable donation in the name of the Lifeguard Corps again this year, because the RED CROSS gave us a discount.

I am ordering the new DVD and a few textbooks because the procedures have changed again and the update is late this summer for CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer. Next year will be all new. I am also asking the State to get a few new mannequins and a larger TV with a DVD player.

As I said last year, I will not be returning to run this show next year. It is not worth it for me. But it is very important that we keep training and CPR re-cert in house. We can't gamble these things away. We worked very hard to get CPR set up and organized, if the Red Cross comes in to do it (which was the threat this year and the reason that I got suckered into taking it on again) we are in trouble. When they do a challenge or a review, each participant must have a face mask (\$7) and a text (\$25). It will cost you \$47 to take the class. So, we need someone to step up.

We need two people to step up and take over running CPR/AED for the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps. I will show you how I have been running it. I will give you all the paperwork, textbooks, sign-in sheets, Red Cross forms, Information sheets, scripts, ect. and help you get it going. I will introduce you to the fine folks at the Red Cross in

Mineola, show you where the equipment is kept, how to clean it up and store it. I will show you where to drop off the forms after each class, how to fill them out so the Red Cross will accept them. It sucks.



Have Team, will Travel (and kick some butt!)(Photo by Epstein)

USLA REGIONALS 2006

By Cary Epstein

On Tuesday July 11th, 2006, 13 Jones Beach Lifeguards caravanned down to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware to represent and compete in the United States Lifesaving Association Mid Atlantic Regional Lifeguard Competition. Starting off the day with a stellar performance was CM rookie Billy Holl who placed 5th in the beach run followed by Eric Florio and DJ Paulson respectively.

Other standout performances included Brittany Daly's 1st and 2nd place finishes in the distance swim and the run swim run, along with other great competitive swims by lifeguards Stacey Boehm, Dena Kaliades, Sarah Kretz, and Jackie Fasano.

Scott Zenville, Cary Epstein, DJ Paulson and Eric Florio took no prisoners in beach flags for quite a few rounds (until they got out...and Cary managed to keep all his teeth...last year at nationals he chipped a few!!) and a great line pull was had for Brad Hepworth and Mike Guadi. Matt Caines of the WBHO showed a stellar performance in the men's surf swim and run swim run.

In addition the 2nd annual Matt Lynch Memorial Award was given out to the winner of the men's open run swim run in honor of former WBHO lifeguard Matt Lynch who was killed in action in Iraq in October of 2004.

Congratulations to all who competed and represented the JBLC to its finest. With the quality of athletes in the lifeguard corps, we are hoping to see more faces for Regionals 2007. Come cheer on the competition team at the July 24th tournament at Smiths point. The next USLA tournament open to all is the USLA Craft Regionals on Wed, July 19th in Belmar, NJ. We then have the All Women's Lifeguard Tournament July 26th, and the USLA National Lifeguard Tournament, August 10th - 12th in Huntington Beach, CA.

On a side note; don't forget it's not too late to support the Jones Beach Chapter of the USLA. Drop off cash or make out a check for \$30 made payable to "JB Chapter USLA" to the CM lifeguard shack or mail it to JB USLA-41 Avalon Road, Hewlett, NY 11557. Any questions call Cary Epstein at CM ext 616.



Mike, Brad & Matt exhausted after a line pull (Photo by Epstein)

MY FELLOW LIFEGUARDS

By Jay Lieberfarb

This past winter I presented a history of the lifeguard union from the 1960s to the end of 2005. I am now going to bring the story up to the present time. It is a sad story filled with opportunism, greed, deviousness, cowardice, misrepresentations of the truth, betrayal, pain, and the destruction of the lifeguard union's executive Board that you elected to represent the JBLC.

In the late winter of 2006 Bruce Meirowitz, an Executive Board member, told the other members at a meeting that the Board should grant a lifeguard full Lt. seniority for the years he worked part time after he had been demoted by the park administration.

When Mr. Meirowitz spoke to the Executive Board about this lifeguard's seniority as a Lt., he told us that he had heard that if the Board did not grant the lifeguard in question the seniority he claimed, that lifeguard would sue the members of the Board. Mr. Meirowitz and Mr. Dirico both stated that they did not want to be sued and were in favor of giving him the seniority he claimed was his as a Lt. for the years he worked as a part timer.

A majority of the Board believed it was not their province to grant or deny him seniority and so voted. At ensuing meetings Mr. Meirowitz continued to bring up the seniority issue and the Board continued to hold to its position. Mr. Meirowitz and Mr. Dirico then took the issue to NYSCOPBA's attorney, Ms. Carraway which led to numerous e mails between her and members of the Executive Board regarding this issue. Ms. Carraway finally decided that the lifeguard in question was entitled to **full** year's seniority as a Lt. for the years he worked as a **part time** LGII regardless of the fact that we do not have part time officers and working as a part-timer was the lifeguard's own decision. Despite the fact that no other lifeguard has ever received full time officer seniority for working part time as a LGII, LISPC granted him this seniority following Ms. Carraway's determination.

Immediately thereafter NYSCOPBA informed Mr. Gorman that the Executive Board was not a legal part of NYSCOPBA and that no one in the administration can meet with or negotiate with any member of the Board regarding lifeguards or they would be held in violation of the Taylor Law and could be punished for doing so. Mr. Gorman informed the Executive Board of this and stated that there would be no more contact between them and the State.

In one fell swoop NYSCOPBA, who has collected more than HALF A MILLION Dollars of our dues and continues to do so, determined that the lifeguards did not have the right to elect their own representatives, which they had been doing since 1972.

Council 82 our parent union from 1972 to 1999 allowed for Executive Boards, NYSCOPBA's constitution does not. However, NYSCOPBA's constitution does allow representation by sector stewards but in order to be one Shop Steward you first must work continuously for 6 months. I am unaware of any JBLC. Lifeguard who works continuously for the Parks for that period of time.

"Catch 22" - you can't have an Executive Board and you can't have a Sector Steward because the same constitution that prevents such Boards prevents us from having stewards, and so we have nothing. DUESATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.

Keith Zulko, the union official who told Mr. Gorman we did not officially represent the lifeguards, was aware as were all other NYSCOPBA officials that since its inception in 1999 NYSCOPBA had verbally agreed that the JBLC could continue to use an elected Executive Board as the direct representatives of the JBLG's, and they would negotiate agreements and handle union business with the LISPC. In fact NYSCOPBA allowed Roy Lester to be the Chief Sector Steward for all State Lifeguards until last year.

Why NYSCOPBA has taken the action it has, one can only guess. However, I believe that the Executive Board was doing a better job of representing the LI lifeguards than NYSCOPBA wanted. They decided that we had more power than they were comfortable with and rather than participating with us in union business they took over the business for themselves. Their lack of knowledge of lifeguarding operational problems is enormous and you can't properly represent lifeguards without representatives on site.

Recently, a perhaps well meaning, but ill advised group of lifeguards took it on themselves to influence lifeguards who attended CPR classes to sign NYSCOPBA union membership cards. Supposedly this was done so that the lifeguards who signed the cards could vote for bona fide sector stewards to represent them. However, nobody has changed NYSCOPBA's constitution that requires 6 months continuous employment as a lifeguard **before you can legally vote or be elected as a legal sector steward**. What in fact was accomplished by the signing of these cards was an acknowledgement and acquiescence by each lifeguard who signed a card that they had no problem with NYSCOPBA taking their weekly dues and giving them neither **LEGAL VOTING RIGHTS** nor **REPRESENTATION BY LIFEGUARDS THEY CHOOSE**. It seems as though a lot of lifeguards have been had.



The Juniors trying for that last remaining "Beach Flag"

JR. LIFEGUARD UPDATE 2006

The 3rd Jones Beach Junior Lifeguard Tournament will take place Monday, July 17, 2006 at the East Bath Ocean Front. For those of you who have never seen this tournament, you should take some time to come down and watch the hundreds of kids showing off true lifeguarding skills. (Besides, Scott can use the help if you can spare an hour or so.)

And now, exercising my license as editor, a brief comment. To my knowledge the JBLC Junior Lifeguard program is the most successful government assisted physical training program in the State. Each week hundreds of children come down to the ocean to willingly train their bodies and minds in disciplines that not only help keep them in shape and help them mature but, more importantly, **they learn how to save other people's lives!**

In a time when obesity in youth is becoming a national concern, a program such as this should be lauded from the highest towers in Albany. Instead, I feel, the local administration is looking for any way to cut the legs out from under the program.

Just last week the Coordinators' office told the program they could no longer use parent volunteers. *"Worried about lawsuits,"* they said. As a lawyer I can tell you how transparent that excuse is. (I wanted to use other language but children read this.) Volunteerism is a time honored and noble tradition in the State of N.Y. If you are worried about lawsuits, **have the volunteers sign a waiver**. It's as simple as that. Unless of course one is not looking for a solution but is instead looking for a way to destroy a wonderful program that benefits hundreds of children. Shame on them!



The Juniors learning the right way to set up a buoy

THE COMICS

On a cross-country road trip, a group of guys decide to tour the brewery where their favorite beer was made. As they marveled at the process, one of them slipped and fell into a huge vat of beer. Brewery workers tried to save him while his friends waited outside.

A half-hour later, the supervisor came out to tell the guys the bad news- their friend had drowned.

"Do you think he suffered much?" one of them asked.

"I don't think so," said the supervisor. "In fact, before he drowned, he climbed out three times to go to the bathroom."

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The Italian government is installing a clock in the Leaning Tower of Pisa. After all, what good is the inclination if you don't have the time?



WBHP offering a smorgasbord of potential rescues