

bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

July 30, 2006

This week I sent a copy of an old *Bucket & Buoy* to the web site asking that a link be put on it so that people can see where we were 20 years ago. Many of you weren't even born yet but this June 1986 edition (http://www.jblifeguard.com/Adobe/B&B_6-28-86.pdf) refers to a battle we were fighting that went back even years before the 1986 edition.

The battle I am talking about was our fight to get out of a Union dominated by Correction Officers and into either our own unit or a group that was able to attend to our needs in a better fashion.

For those that haven't read Jay's history lesson, suffice to say that our troubles as a union started in 1972 when PERB decided that unless we were in a Statewide Bargaining unit there was an argument that we did not fall under the Taylor Law and thus couldn't get punished if we struck.

Their solution, at the time, was to put us in a union of Prison Guards for no other reason than we both had the word "guard" in our title. Local 2744, AFL-CIO was created out of the lifeguards that were employed by the State and worked the LI beaches. That Local became part of Council 82. That arrangement worked for a few years as both the State and Council 82 allowed us to negotiate our own terms and conditions of employment as a semi-certified subsection of the duly recognized Statewide bargaining unit.

In the late 70's that all began to change as the State tried to rein in the authority they had given us and started severely limiting the items they would allow us to negotiate. The final straw came through a series of arbitrations where the State argued and won on the issues that removed both seniority and discipline protection from the lifeguards.

Of course our first reaction was to turn to our master union (Council 82) and demand that they renegotiate the rights they had assured us we had and that the State had recognized since 1972. Unfortunately C-82, who had had their own problems after their 1979 strike, was not able to address our needs but still badly needed our money. The relationship became extremely strained and our needs took a back burner to anything the prison guards needed. When there finally came a day that C-82 traded away **our demands** for benefits **that affected only the prison guards** we knew we had to do something to get our autonomy back.

Around 1984 we started a fight to get decertified from Council 82. We fought for years in what seemed to be a hopeless battle against overwhelming odds. There was no question that we were out gunned, with the upstate union and NYS having unlimited money and legal resources to use against us. Still we battled on. Years and years went by but we still never lost sight of the goal.

In 1999, NYSCOPBA took over from Council 82 and moved over all the prison guards. Although NYSCOPBA didn't ask for us, we were moved over too and again found ourselves as very little fish in a big Corrections Officer's pool.

Although once again we were assured that this new union would take care of us and would get us our discipline, seniority and negotiating rights back, these promises turned out to be empty. The reality was that corrections could only take care of corrections. However, but rather than admitting that and taking a chance on losing the over \$100,000.00 of dues they got each summer, NYSCOPBA gave us lip service only and kept taking our money.

We once again moved to decertify and when PERB ruled against us in 2003 on procedural issues we filed again, knowing from 30 plus years of experience that as long as we are with corrections we will never get a fair shake.

This Tuesday, I was informed that the latest decertification answer that we had been waiting on for almost three (3) years had been mailed out. No one in Albany knew what it said but thousand of people were holding their breath until it was received on Wednesday morning. Finally after 22 plus years of trying **WE WON!!!**

Although it is still up to PERB to decide whether we get our own unit, go with another Statewide Union or whether a new unit should be formed with other titles, the fact is that our petition to defragment from NYSCOPBA was granted! **After only 22 years!**

There is still much that needs to be done. NYSCOPBA can still appeal the ruling to the full PERB Board and the question of

the appropriate unit still has to be decided and, until that time we are still under the yoke of NYSCOPBA, the victory is still incredibly significant.

The question now becomes what is the next step. Since the decision your Executive Board has been working hard lobbying everyone we can up in Albany to get the balance of this case moving. Conversations have been had with the number 2 man in NYSCOPBA to see if they can now stipulate to let us move. We might be going up to Albany this week to meet with the powers that be to move that along.

In the meantime our fight for our rights is not being put on the back burner. This week we filed another Improper Practice with PERB, this time against NYSCOPBA for their failure to move forward our grievances. We also put in amendments to our two Improper Practices against the State and two discrimination charges were filed, one with NYS Division of Human Rights and one with EEOC. Given how we had to wait almost 3 years for our decertification decision, we can not afford to let anything go by while we wait for the balance of the defragmentation process.

Finally, I know this is a lot of information to absorb on a very confusing topic. I have been living with this since 1978 when I first joined the Executive Board. I urge anyone who is interested to read past *Bucket & Buoy*s for more history. Also read Jay's postings on the website for a history lesson. There is a wealth of information out there for the taking. Become informed – it only makes for a stronger Union.

Notes: - Don't forget about the Mike Keifer Run, Swim, Paddle next Saturday at Long Beach, the Empire Masters Open Water Mile next Sunday at Point Lookout and of course the Swim Across America on August 19th with swim distances of 10K, 5K or a NEW 1 mile course.



The Jr Lifeguard Comp Team & coaches (Photo by Epstein)

THE INTERBEACH RACES

As I explained last week, when it comes to the Races, nothing is yet in stone. We have applied for the permit for the races and the party but we still haven't gotten it. We don't anticipate the State screwing with our long standing tradition but nothings is certain.

A few changes were decided for this year's races: The age handicapped Relays will not be run this year and we will go back to an open format. Age Groups, although recognized, will not score.

Because the Races are later than usual this year, we are limited in the length of the day. The schedule will be a lot tighter or else we will be running out of sunlight. Please keep that in mind when deciding when you are going to meander down for your event.

Hopefully the schedule is: **Thursday, Aug. 17th at Robert Moses 2** 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. 18th at East Bathhouse Ocean** Iron Man 5:30 p.m. - Individual Kayak Race 6:00 p.m. - Individual Surfboard Race 6:15 p.m. - 2 Mi. Run (All Age Groups) 6:30 p.m. - 10 Guard Ocean Relay 7:00 p.m. - **Saturday, August 19th at East Bathhouse** Surfboat Race 6:00 p.m. - Board Relay 6:15 p.m. - Surf Swim (All Age Groups) 6:30 p.m. - Kayak Relay 6:45 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!**



The JB-RM Lifeguard Competition Team (Photo by Hepworth)

SMITH POINT TOURNAMENT

On Monday July 24th the Jones Beach Competition Team edged out the Long Beach lifeguard team for third place at the Smith Point Joseph Dooley Lifeguard Championship after the recognition of RM Captain Bob Berkley as Lifeguard of the Year.

The Jones Beach race team started strong with a 2nd, 5th and 6th place finish in the distance swim by Matt Caines, Mike DiDinato, and Shirlee Manoogian respectively. The strong showing continued with a 4th place finish by Billy Holl and respectable runs by Erik Florio and DJ Paulson in the 2 mile beach run. Among the top finishes were the 2nd place Landline Rescue led by swimmer Matt Caines, and pullers Mike Guadi and Captain Brad Hepworth (thanks victim DJ Paulson).

The rest of the team: Paddlers/swimmers Chris Nellen and Justin Lynch, Beach Flagger Scott Zanville and Co-Captain Mike Scanlon.



The Group A Jr LG Team at the Regionals (Photo by Epstein)

THANK U's & TRASH TALK

On July 19, 2006 the following letter was posted in the discussion part of Mike Dafina's website www.jonesbeach.com:

Dear Sir: Yesterday, my family and I (husband and three teenaged daughters) went to Jones Beach and the water was beautiful. We were having so much well deserved fun. All of a sudden the water changed and my oldest (18) began to panic. I started to push her towards the shore when, out of no where, a bunch of lifeguards came and saved her, my husband, and myself because I too was being pushed out.

We are life time beach go'ers and all my kids know water safety. The lifeguards explained to us it was called a SUCK. I never experienced or heard of that before. I just wanted to thank all the lifeguards on duty yesterday at Field 6. They saved my family.

I remember one time years ago, out in Seaside my husband and I were caught in a rip tide and it took us quite awhile to swim out of it. The lifeguards didn't move to help us. Being life time swimmers helped us that day and yesterday because we were taught to stay calm but the lifeguards at Jones Beach are ON THE JOB. Before I could think to panic I was safe and on shore. The are truly LIFE-GUARDS. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, - Jaye & Family.

* * * * *

To All Fields: As per the letter from the wannabes at Field 6. Let's start w/excuses for "NOT" competeing: I'm too hungover, I just got married, Uh, I have a business meeting at my "REAL" job, sorry; imaginary e-board meeting, sorry couldn't get away from the field, a concretian fell of his lounge chair and broke his/her hip, we were all in the east flats taking turns . . . etc. etc.

To our friends to the West: After Lifeguarding lessons are over (by the way if your lg's want to really see how it is done, send them East to the Mall) you guys and girls should let your one competitor rekindle the flame, not for a cigarette but for the competitive flame that some of you old men used to have.

To the Still Water Guards: You don't even count. The smell alone precludes you, and oh yeah; Those are called WAVES.

And lastly to RM: It's not volleyball, grilling or backgammon so don't even bother to come, not that it would matter anyway! The True Champs - The Central Mall (By the way, we don't need a complex!)

JR. LIFEGUARD REGIONALS

By Cary Epstein!

On Monday July 24th, 70 Jones Beach Junior lifeguards and their parents traveled down to Sea Girt, NJ to compete in the 2006 USLA Regional Jr. Lifeguard Tournament. With junior lifeguard teams from all across the Mid-Atlantic, the JB juniors dominated every event they entered. It was a sea of Jones Beach yellow bathing caps and green rescue cans crossing the finish line in 1st, 2nd and 3rd places consecutively for almost every race in every age group! The juniors had the best time as did the coaches and the parents.

The Jr. Lifeguards hold a reputation that is above and beyond what we could have ever expected. Special thanks to all the parent volunteers along with volunteer Lifeguard Coaches Bob Adler, Cary Epstein, Rob Kaefer & volunteer parent coach Barbara Stagnari. (John Mc Shane, Brad Smith, DJ Paulson and all the others who help us out..thanks and we missed you in Sea Girt!)

Our next competition is the USLA Junior National Tournament in Huntington Beach, California on August 10th. As of right now we have a team of 22 junior lifeguards and their parents flying West! Over the next few years the juniors will be stepping up and will continue to take the new hire test. Their experience and skills will clearly shine and there is no doubt that they will all dominate the new hire! Great work kids!



One of the Jr Teams showing their affection (Photo by Epstein)

ANNUAL RM 5 V-BALL TOURNY

By Scott Davern

The annual RM 5 volleyball tournament will be held August 16th (Wednesday) promptly at 9:00 AM at RM 4. The rain date will be August 17th. You must be on time or you may forfeit a game/match depending on how late you are.

All players must take the day off in order to participate in this tournament. This tournament is open to any **current male or female Jones Beach Lifeguard**. The cost is \$20 per team (2 person teams) which includes food, beverages, and a rocking good time on the courts.

Please give your money to Scott Davern @ RM 3 or Udo @ RM 5. The tournament is limited to the first 20 teams that reserve a spot. You must submit your \$20 in order to hold your spot - no refunds unless we can find another team to take your spot. Please note that RM 4 is closed to the public on these dates which means that you must show up on time (8:00 - 9:00 AM) in order to get in. If anyone is interested in showing up early to help set up it would be much appreciated. If you have any questions you can contact me at scottdavern@yahoo.com (how original, huh?). See you there.

THE COMICS

"I am a Red Sox fan," the first grade teacher was explaining to her Boston class. "Who likes the Red Sox?"

Every one of the children raised their hand, except for one little girl who had recently moved from New York.

"Susie" the teacher asked surprised, "Why didn't you raise your hand?"

"I'm not a Red Sox fan." She explained.

"Well if you are not a Red Sox fan, then what team do you like," asked the teacher.

"The Yankees," Susie answers.

"Why in the world are you a Yankees fan?"

"Because my Mom and Dad are Yankees fans."

"That's no reason to be a Yankee fan," the teacher replies, annoyed. "You don't always have to be just like your parents. What if your mom and dad were morons? What would you be then?"

"Probably a Red Sox fan," replied Susie.

* * * * *

A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother.