



The Bucket and Buoy

The Official Newsletter of the Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps

September 2, 2007

Beach Representative Assembly Meeting 8-29-07

Thanks to all the Beach Reps for the great turnout at the 8-29 Beach Rep Assembly meeting. (The new Constitution reverted to the old terminology, where Shop Stewards are again called "Beach Representatives", and when meeting with the Executive Board, together we are known as the "Beach Representative Assembly".)

At 7:37 PM, President Tom Donovan opened with remarks about meeting protocol, stressing civility and respect for each other. He encouraged greater participation from Reps, and awaits more feedback before appointing a Trustee at Large.

Reports were given by each of the new Board members. The most interesting was by Bob Cornacchia, Treasurer and Fundraising Committee Chairman. One hundred tickets to the 9-25 NY Mets game were given to him. \$20 buys you a tailgate party and game entry.

All proceeds will support Corps activities, and will repay our EB members and Beach Reps who have personally funded things like the recent elections, and ongoing expenses like the B+B. At this writing, half the tickets are already sold, so don't delay. Call Bob at 516.652.2927.

He is also organizing a "Mega-Reunion" of every JBLC lifeguard that has ever been! That and other exciting fundraisers are in the works.

Jim Dirico's report appears in "Post Season Update."

Bruce Meirowitz updated us on the various grievances, legal activities, and the decertification process. As part of that discussion, a vote of confidence was given by the Beach Reps to the EB to act as we see fit in specific related matters. Speak with your Rep for particulars.

Tom's comments on the Newsday article are under "Inspector General's Report and the Media."

Tom described the new committees, and preliminary membership. Others will be formed later, but some are needed now.

Under New Business, the issue of a Captain also holding the position of Beach Representative was raised, as the result of a petition presented by Ryan Clark. After discussion, the group felt that an addition to the By Laws is needed, in the form of a mechanism to remove Beach Reps before the yearly election date. It was agreed that Tom and other EB members would work on language and related issues and report to the next BRA meeting. We adjourned at 9:50 PM. (by Dennis Kane)



Dennis Kane, Bucket and Buoy Editor

JBLC Executive Board

President: Tom Donovan
1st VP: Bruce Meirowitz
2nd VP: Dennis Kane
Secretary: Donnie Campbell
Treasurer: Robt. Cornacchia
JB Trustee: Cary Epstein
RM Trustee: Jim Dirico
EEnd Trustee: Nick Athenas
Trustee at Large: vacant

Post Season Update (by Jim Dirico)

On 8-26, I attended a meeting at the WSO. Present at the meeting were the Captains of the full time beaches open during post-season (CM, F6, RM2, RM5, SM, HHills absent.) I was invited as a member of the Seniority Committee.

As in past years, there are continuous changes in status. While at the meeting, three more came in. But each individual changes causes 2-5 other changes on the WSO staffing board.

They want this to stop. Therefore, on Saturday September 1st, a Final List for the first part of the post season came out. **If your name is on this list, and you do not honor your commitment, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO WORK PRE-SEASON 2008!** Your Captain cannot give you permission to be excused. Since the staffing numbers are minimal, missing lifeguards could cause unsafe conditions. Honor your commitment.

Beach Cleanup Day at RM 2

9-15, 10AM - Noon (Rain Date 9-16) Last year, over 300 volunteers removed more than 2,000 pounds of trash from RM beaches. State Senator Owen Johnson, a friend of the JBLC, is a major supporter of this event., and will be in attendance. We're trying to grow political support. Your presence will help that, and with cleaning the beach. Please join us!

The President's Message

It's Labor Day weekend, the end of another great Summer. We rekindled old friendships and made new ones, sharing new experiences and telling the old stories. Surf, no surf, heat, rain, rescues, riptides, crowds, lost children, medical emergencies, silent pastel mornings, blazing sunsets, and the occasional dolphin pod were just part of the 2007 season.

Year after year, patron questions remain the same, as does our responsibility to keep them safe. Without them, we would not have a job. Rarely do I use my whistle. Actually talking to the public is more successful and more satisfying for me. We have officers, but we really work for the public.

The JBLC also had a good year. We elected an Executive Board and Beach Reps, and amended our Constitution. We established standards, and our meetings are productive. You should be proud of the work your Beach Reps are doing. They volunteer lots of time and effort to improve your working conditions. Your interests are truly being represented. Labor Day is meant to honor those that labor. Take a moment to thank them for all their efforts on your behalf.

BRA Meeting

Your Executive Board and Beach Reps met this week, and had a very successful meeting. It was informative about our current Union status, continued lack of wage increases, and the decertification process. As a unified group, we made decisions about our future. We are confident we will obtain both the wages we deserve and a contract that insures our rights.

By Rehire 2008, I believe we will be in a much better position, both financially and in working conditions. We have started efforts to engage in sincere and meaningful dialog with park supervisors and management.

Several committees are already formed, to insure that before the start of the 2008 season, comprehensive plans will be in place. We cannot wait until next year. We need to plan now.

Once or twice a month, you will meet with fellow guards about issues that interest you. Your input is necessary for these committees to be successful. A full list of committees and their Chairs will be posted online and in the next Bucket and Buoy. Please join a committee, and work over the Winter to help us meet our goals.

Inspector General's Report and the Media

Most of you know about recent media stories this week about mandatory background checks for lifeguards. This short-lived media frenzy was a reaction to what some thought was a juicy story. In reality, this was simply the release of a long overdue NYS Inspector General's Report on two year-old investigations and recommendations on hiring policies about all seasonal employees.

Whether or not this report was released to cause negative publicity to any or all of our members is pure speculation. We know who we are. We know we are not criminals. Those we work for know who we are. They know we are the best of the best. It really is more of a reflection on our society that lots of people get in trouble all the time, that lifeguards are no different than the society they live in.

Ten and twenty year-old brushes with the law and youthful offender violations do not affect our ability to protect the public. It is more likely that lifeguarding has straightened out many of those who had social issues growing up. Do not dwell on this. It is old news.

"Jones Beach Boys"

This week, the long-awaited "Jones Beach Boys" video was released by former JB guard Ron Blake Colby, who is now a Hollywood documentary film maker. He spent several summers interviewing and taping many of us. The story is based on Ron returning to "the best time of his life" as a JB guard. He wonders about those he worked with so many years ago, and this story is about his reunion with his former co-workers. Though mostly about senior guards, the story itself is timeless. First class audio and music weave around stories about people you know or perhaps have heard of. This is a video we all should have in our collection.

Ron is here until Tuesday visiting all the beaches, and has the DVD available for purchase (\$20). It would make a great Christmas present! If you miss him, purchase your copy at his website: artistsconfederacy.com. See you at the Rehire or at a committee meeting!

