



The Bucket and Buoy

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JBLC

MARCH 9, 2008

Speed Bumps On the Road to Freedom

{Article by Dennis Kane, Editor, 2nd VP}

Our three central rules are to “be on time, be in uniform, watch the water.” The BRA is having a problem with some of those.

“Be On Time”

The Beach Representative Assembly met at NYSUT offices March 5th. At 7:28 PM, Tom Donovan called the 7:00 meeting to order. Our winter meetings are scheduled to start at 7:00, not 7:30. Please arrive on time.

A quorum was not met, so we were unable to vote on some important issues.

Being a Beach Representative is not a three month job. We meet every month, and in this important transitional period, we need **everyone** to do their part. Some facilities, like RM4, are not being represented at all. If you are the elected rep, please honor your responsibility and attend the meetings. **It's your only sit of the month, so please make it. I**

If you can't come, be certain the elected Alternate takes your place. From now on, we will publish which facilities are not being represented.

“Watch The Water”

Bruce Meiowitz gave us an update on our efforts to move away from NYSCOPBA and into NYSUT. A “handshake agreement” between NYSUT, Council 82, GOER, NYSCOPBA and the JBLC was recently reached.

This agreement would allow the JBLC to move from NYSCOPBA to NYSUT. But Wednesday at 4PM, NYSUT attorney Bob Reilly sent Bruce an email which muddies the water. NYSCOPBA is now demanding a vote of the JBLC membership be taken, regarding our desire to move.

Since we just received the email, the specifics of the demand are not available to us. We are also uncertain as the motive for their action. NYSUT legal is looking into it, formulating a strategy, and will consult with us ASAP.

But one thing is clear, the JBLC will need to act decisively, and in the immediate future. That means the Beach Reps will have to step up, and take care of the voting for each of their facilities. To the rest of the Corps, be ready to respond immediately.

This is a perfect example of why we've been pleading with you to get your email and other contact info to us. In an emergency, when we need to mobilize quickly, your apathy and procrastination stop us in our tracks. We're very close to realizing our goals, but we can't do it without your help.

Contact your Beach Rep **now**, and give contact info. Encourage them to attend the meetings, and to keep you informed. Contact your fellow guards **now** and independently of your Rep. Better they hear it twice than not at all.

The situation is fluid, and somewhat volatile, but moving in the right direction. We will publish immediately upon receipt of news. I expect another issue within 2 weeks or less. Keep looking at the freejblc.net site for updates.

“Be In Uniform”

On a lighter note, we are exploring a “dress uniform” for more formal events, such as funerals and public relation events. LA County, San Diego, and other major lifeguard organizations have had such uniforms for many years. We welcome your input.

Rehire Paperwork / Process

We have been assured that the 2008 rehire paperwork will be free of last year’s problems. The 20/40 vision is for new hires only. The “second try” swim test date has been loosened up.

The rumor about fingerprinting is true. It will affect not just the JBLC, but all 1200 NYS lifeguards, park rangers, and other types of safety personnel on a statewide basis.

The vast majority of us have already been fingerprinted for our other jobs (firefighter, teacher, coaches, etc.). We asked the BRA for a show of hands from all those who had been fingerprinted, and almost everyone raised their hands. Because of the above two items, we ask you to go with the flow.

The specifics are being worked out, but they are trying to make it as “user-friendly” as possible. What we know today is subject to change. The NYS Police will do the printing, at Belmont, for several weeks **prior to the Rehire Test. PRINTING WILL NOT BE DONE AT THE REHIRE. It is your responsibility to get printed before the Rehire Test.**

It will not cost us. They will pay us to do it as part of the rehire process. The smart thing is to combine the printing with your delivery of the rehire paperwork to Belmont.

It’s a one-time event in your career as a JB guard. And NO, just because you’ve been printed at your other job, the State cannot use those prints. Each workplace is required to have their own prints.

George Munnich

Our ad congratulating JBLC alumni George Munnich on his induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame has been submitted and paid. Unfortunately, at the same time, he suffered a stroke and was hospitalized. JB guard Mark Munnich told us his dad was recovering nicely, in his typically irrepressible style.

The EB created a “Recognition Committee”, to deal with our history and illustrious alumni like George. Cary Epstein, Dennis Kane and Tom Donovan are the current members.

“Summer on Snow”

Due to bad weather, the JBLC event at Wyndham has been rescheduled for Sat. March 15.

Other Promotions

Denise Cooke spoke to us about a swimathon fundraiser to build a pediatric wing at Winthrop. Contact her for more details. Da Kine fins are available to us at significant discount. Contact TD for more details. Keith Washington is associated with “The Crazy Donkey” on Rte. 110. He has arranged for the JBLC to have a free food / beverage party on 5/30 or 6/6 as part of his promotional efforts.

Unable to meet a quorum, we could not vote on a constitutional change dealing with a mechanism for removal of a Beach Representative.

Our next BRA meeting will be 4/26 at 7:00 PM. We adjourned at 9:20.