

# bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

June 27, 1999

Seems like a long time between the Memorial Day week-end and the start of full season, but at last we are there. All our beaches are finally open, everyone is back to work and the new rookies are hired and in place. It's great to see your old crew back. Once again it feels like home. (At Field 6 that means Scott and Matt are inseparable once again. Now I know the summer is officially here.)

Next week-end is the big one. Fireworks and all. Because July 4th falls on a Sunday this year we have an extra day to recover after the festivals. I have a feeling it will be needed.

For those that missed it there is a great article in the New York Times today about Jones Beach. I like the way it describes how Jones Beach got started. The article states: "Before it became a pet project of Robert Moses, head of the LISPC, Jones Beach was an undeveloped coastal barrier island about five miles from the mainland used only by an occasional fisherman.

*The long, narrow spit of sand and marsh was named after Maj. Thomas Jones, an Irish mercenary and a part-time pirate who preyed on merchant ships in the Atlantic. Maj. Jones married Frelove Townsend in 1696 and settled some 600 acres in what is now Massapequa. A few years later he laid claim to the offshore barrier island, where he established a whaling station. The beach and marsh lands remained mostly uninhabited until Moses envisioned a recreation opportunity two centuries later.*

I never knew that this beach was established by a plundering pirate. I guess that explains the concession prices.

Just a brief note on the "Hawk" benefit from the other night. Although the whole scene was awesome what impressed me the most was when someone came up to me and asked who the "Hawk" was. They weren't there because it was a party or because they liked Josh, they were there because they heard that one of our own needed help so they showed up to try to help him.

It is that spirit of comradery that keeps us coming back year after year. I have said many times that brother and sister lifeguard are often closer than real family. Friendships made at the beach last a lifetime. That's why it is said, "A good crew at a bad beach is much better than a bad crew at a good beach." Where I work, I am lucky. I have both. A great crew at a great beach!



Mat and Scott proving the summer is really here!

## NYSCOPBA Q&A'S

These questions were found on the Web page of NYSCOPBA. (www.nyscopba.org) These questions were from prior to them winning the representation election but even now give us some information on who represents us.

**1) Who is N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A.?** N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. is the acronym for The New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association. N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. is an independent association

formed by New York State Correctional Officers to decertify from A.F.S.C.M.E. and Council 82. N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. is attempting to become the union representing New York State Correctional Officers and members of the Security Services and Security Supervisors bargaining units.

**2) Why is N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. challenging AFSCME-Council 82? Independence:** We must become an independent union in order to effectively promote the needs of the membership. A.F.S.C.M.E. gets 1.7 million dollars a year of our dues money. Where is it spent to promote the needs of our membership? Council 82 is not a separate entity, Council 82 is a LOCAL of A.F.S.C.M.E.!

**Pattern bargaining:** New York State Correction Officers are forced to receive the same salary increases as CSEA clerical employees because of AFSCME. CSEA and Council 82 are both members of AFSCME. However CSEA is approximately 5 times larger than Council 82, and pays 5 times more dues to AFSCME. Pattern bargaining is a business decision for AFSCME, they cannot allow Council 82 members to receive a significantly larger raise than CSEA members. AFSCME maintains peace between the unions with pattern bargaining.

**Legal Representation:** NYSCOPBA will provide attorneys for disciplinary arbitration, grievance arbitration, contract negotiations, contract arbitrations and lobbying. These services will be provided by the law firm of [Hinman, Straub, Pigors](#)

**3) How would N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. attempt to break pattern bargaining?** The first step in breaking pattern bargaining must be independence. We cannot hope to break the pattern while still represented by AFSCME-Council 82. Second, is to surround yourself with people and organizations that have done it. N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. will utilize the law firm of [Hinman, Straub, Pigors & Manning](#) (HSP&M). This prestigious law firm represents the Police Benevolent Association of New York State Troopers, Inc. who recently received a 16+% salary increase for the same period AFSCME-CSEA and AFSCME-Council 82 received 7.3%.

**4) Tell me more about Hinman, Straub, Pigors & Manning?** [Hinman, Straub, Pigors & Manning](#) provide the gamut of services to the New York State Troopers, including contract negotiations, grievance and disciplinary arbitrations, lawsuits, improper practice and Political Action / lobbying.

**5) How are my contractual benefits effected if N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. wins? What do I lose?** According to Article 14 of New York State Civil Service Law, all your contractual benefits are protected if N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. wins. Commonly known as the [Taylor Law](#), Article 14 guarantees the membership will maintain all [current rights and benefits](#) under the old contract until a new contract is ratified.

**6) Does the N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. Constitution support the 1 man/1 vote concept?** Yes. All elections will be 1 man/1 vote.

**7) If I am brought up on charges, who will represent me, a staff rep or an attorney?** N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A.'s Constitution specifically states that attorneys will be utilized for disciplinary arbitrations. Simply put, when your job is on the line N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. believes you are entitled to an attorney.

**8) What is a central treasury?** N.Y.S.C.O.P.B.A. will utilize a central treasury and a voucher system. The locals will voucher monies from the central treasury on an as needed basis. The central treasurer will provide quarterly reviews and annual audits that all members have access to. This is the "total accountability" the membership has demanded.