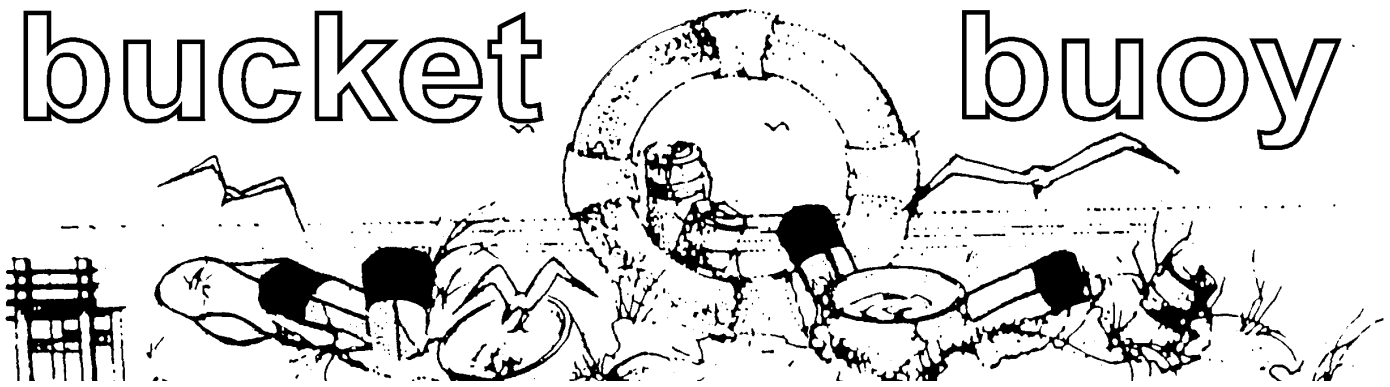


bucket buoy



Dear Fellow Lifeguards:

July 25, 1999

This week's *Bucket & Buoy* contains a plea for money to run our union. We, as an Executive Board, are embarrassed by the idea that every two weeks \$15.50 is taken from your check and we still have to come to you for money. Unfortunately, it takes money to run this union. We have the races and after race party coming up and those events traditionally cost the union a fair amount of the dues we get back. Right now, even though *NYSCOPBA* has collected money from our last 3 paychecks not one penny has been returned to the local. The fact of the matter is that there are no plans to give us *any* return on our dues.

Over the last few years, while we were under Council 82 our dues were about \$17.50 a paycheck and the local got back about 10% of that. The complaints we had then, about paying 90% of our dues to a Union that did little to represent us, are now even more magnified. Now we are paying a Union that does nothing to represent us, 100% of our dues!

We are very aware that right now *NYSCOPBA* is having trouble finding their footing. They have their hands full dealing with all their up State crises and to paraphrase Humphrey Bogart in *Casa Blanca*, the problems of a couple of people don't amount to a hill of beans in this world.

It is clear to us that if we don't take care of our own problems no one else will. That has always been the case with our local and probably always will be. There is a price to pay for being a seasonal union. We are unique. In all my years I have never found another strictly season union with our ability to care for itself. Since we have been in existence it has always been our strength that saved us when things got tough with the State. I just resent paying someone to not do what we already do for ourselves.



Last week, when I was in S.F., I took a little side trip to a surf spot known as Mavericks. It was there I found this no nonsense sign. I think it says it all.

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING

Saturday, July 24th was the second Shop Stewards meeting of the summer. In attendance were Stewards, Jay Liegey (EBHP), Derek Angermaier (Fld. 2), Tim Foxen (Fld. 1), Grace Walsh (WEII), Matt Lindbom (Fld. 6), Casey Murphy (RM2), and Frank Salino (RM4/5). In attendance for the Executive Board were Bob Lenti, Ed Peters, Jay Lieberfarb and Roy Lester.

RACES: The first topic discussed was the lifeguard races. Keeping with last year's practice it was decided that this year's races would not have the various age groups scoring points (only the open group) although all age groups will get awards. It was also decided to start the initial races 1/2 hour later so that the outer parks won't have such a hard time making the starts. We will keep the later races at the same time due to the daylight constraints and will make up the 1/2 hour by having less time between the

races. This of course will mean that we will have to keep to a much stricter time schedule so remember that even though we maybe starting later, all races should go off as scheduled on time!

It was also agreed that each team will be responsible for their own set-up and take down of their own equipment (i.e. each field coils their own ropes) in order to save time. Furthermore, also to save time, the union will look into getting a Jetski or other motorized vessel to help with the set-up and take-down.

Frank Salino offered to do the sketch for this year's shirts. Once again it looks as if this local will be in Frank's debt.

CONTRIBUTION: Once we started discussing the topic of T-shirts, of course the next subject we had to deal with was money. Traditionally the local pays about \$1,500.00 towards each year's shirts. This year, as noted, since we no longer get back part of our dues, we are broke. We couldn't pay for 1 T-shirt, much less 450 of them. Thus we don't even have the money to pay for a race official, a vital necessity to avoid squabbles.

It was brought out that when this board took over in 1996 they inherited a local that was over \$6,000.00 in debt. Since that time not one Board member has taken their stipend. In fact, it was pointed out, that since 1996 not only has all debt been paid off but as of last year we actually had a surplus in our treasury.

There is no question that money is needed to run a local. The Executive Board feels that we can probably get by with about \$4,500.00 a year. Since, traditionally \$2,000.00 of that is spent on the races, that leaves us very little money to run a 440 member local on. Jay Liegey made a motion to tax each member of the local \$10.00 for this summer. Casey Murphy seconded it and the motion was passed unanimously. It was decided that the Shop Stewards will collect this money from each of their Fields and turn it into the Treasurer (Jay Lieberfarb) prior to Race week.

We all realize when we undertake a task of his magnitude that there are many in the State and up in Albany that want to see us fail. The State doesn't like the idea of a strong lifeguard union. Without this union they would be able to impose all the changes they have been trying to implement for years (i.e. getting rid of hour up/hour down, getting rid of wash-up, having knock offs on rainy days, etc.). Anyone who is reluctant to reach into their wallet at this time of need should ask themselves, would you really want to work here without a union's protection?

THE RUN: The last topic to be discussed was the State's proposal for a run as a component of our rehire. To a man every Shop Steward agreed with the Executive Board that, unless the State is going to build 1/2 mile boardwalks into the ocean, the 1/2 mile run the State proposed had **NOTHING** what so ever to do with our standard rescue procedure. The Stewards made it very clear that although they don't see the need to change our rehire, if it is changed it has to be with something that relates to our standard and usual rescue procedure. This topic to be continued.

The next meeting will be on Saturday August 7th. Please have your Steward bring any negotiating ideas you may have.

SHOP STEWARDS MEETING
SATURDAY - AUG. 7, 1999
WBH Meeting Room 3:30 PM

OUR JR LIFEGUARD CORP

by Scott Reigel

As you are reading this the Junior Lifeguard Program is in full swing. We now have a total of 36 children participating.

First of all this program wouldn't have taken off without the Corps help. When I asked for sponsors, Bob Adler (WEII) (Oppenheimer Funds) stepped up and became our biggest sponsor.