The Bucket and Buoy

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JBLC Dennis M. Kane, Editor APRIL 18, 2010

Contract Negotiations

On April 12, the NYSLC contract negotiation team went to NYSUT headquarters in Albany for a contract negotiations meeting. We met with 13 representatives from Parks & Rec., GOER (the Governor's Office of Employee Relations), OMRDD (Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities), and DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation). The NYSLC team of Ron Roaldsen, Bob Adler, Rich Malen, Chris Tappin (Finger Lakes Region), Bruce Meirowitz and Dennis Kane, was joined by Peter Martineau, NYSUT Liaison to GOER, and John Marino, Head Negotiator.

After introductions, Dennis Kane gave a ten minute Powerpoint presentation entitled "To Serve and Protect: An Inside Look at the JBLC". John Marino stated that he went to Robert Moses regularly, and made certain his family went in the water near a lifeguard.

These 64 slides show the Corps in action: rescues, training, crowds, erosion, and other challenges we face daily. After some modification, I will place it on both the JBLC and NYSLC websites.

We presented our analysis of the impact the UUP raises would have had on our past and future salaries, and Rich Malen gave a brief overview about how the report was crafted.

Specifics of our meeting need to remain confidential for now, but we remain hopefully optimistic. Contract negotiation is a process that has a specific number and sequence of events. This meeting was the next step in that sequence. We are confident that we are one step closer to the successful resolution of our long-standing contract issues with the State.

L-R: Dennis Kane, LI Region; Chris Tappin, Finger Lakes Region; Ron Roaldsen, Rich Malen, Bob Adler and Bruce Meirowitz, all from the LI region; John Marino, UUP; and Peter Martineau, NYSUT.

April 14th BRA Meeting

This was a good week for the JBLC. On the heels of our productive meeting in Albany on Monday, Tom and Bruce met with management on Tuesday. Highlights of that meeting were presented at the BRA meeting held at NYSUT/Nassau on Wednesday. A quorum was met, for both the EB and Beach Reps.

Potential Layoffs: NYS legislative committees have reinstated the funding cut by Gov. Paterson, but the final Budget has yet to be approved. We are hopefully optimistic that all our guards will be rehired, and the facilities that were open last year will be open this year.

The Voluntary Leave of Absence (aka "furlough") is again available this year, with 2 notable changes.

1) You do NOT have to take the rehire test to be eligible. Just complete the form in your rehire packet.
2) If you TAKE the test, you will be eligible to work later in the season as openings occur. Those who took the furlough last year were guaranteed their spot on the Board. That promise will be kept.

Sand is currently being replaced at RM 5 from a stockpile they've had for 15 years. If they complete RM 5 before May 15th, they'll start on RM 4, and go until the contract ends on May 15th.

Pre and Post-Season staffing will BOTH be by strict seniority. In addition, once you accept work at a facility, you MUST stay there until Full Opening. No switching.

Captains Meeting: Management and the Captains will meet on May 20 at Belmont Lake State Park. It is a pre-season briefing hosted by Joanne Wright. Tom and Bruce have been invited as union reps.

The new JBLC Directory will be given to all at the 5/22 Rehire test. Please take out an ad to help pay the cost. 1/4 page ad = $25, 1/2 = $50, full = $100. Send art and money to Cornacchia or Tom Donovan.

The Alumni Committee is working to make its list of over 2,000 names accurate. Upon completion, a mass mailing will solicit contributions and attendance at the Mega-Reunion. The Reunion has been pushed back until 2011, due to 2010 staffing uncertainties. We have more important things to work on.

Misc. WBH Pool is being repaired. Projected opening is Full Opening? Last year's employee safety issues were raised over the winter. We were promised lighting in the employee parking lot, but concerns remain about who uses the lot after the State workers leave. Protocols for calling the Park Police are still being worked on. The Memorial Day air show is still on, but the July 4th fireworks show will not be held, as they do not have enough police. Hither Hills "Tic Alley" will remain open through the summer.

Seniority Rules: There was a lengthy and sometimes contentious discussion of the Seniority Rules, mostly about whether the BRA or the General Membership has the right to amend them. We finally voted that the BRA has the right to amend. It was suggested we change "the Note", aka "Home Boy Rule" aka "Up - Down Rule". The BRA was unofficially polled, and only one rep was against removing "the Note". Beach Reps are to poll their crews on three issues , and return to the BRA meeting on May 12th with results. The issues are 1) Do we remove the Note? 2) Do we add the Seniority Rules to the Constitution? 3) Do we keep the "Displaced Draft"? Please respond to your Reps. We closed at 9:40 PM.

Rehire Update

Paperwork: If driving your paperwork to Belmont, they'll do the notary at no cost. Paperwork is due 5/1. I had an problem with them not sending in the paperwork for my Retirement System account. I suggest checking that your account is up to date.

Test: The initial re-hire test will be on May 22, at Nassau Community, but with one notable change. The start time will be **2:00 PM, not the usual 10:00 AM.** The succeeding four tests will have the swim and video segments at NCCC, but **the run portion** will be at Jones Beach. Those tests will be conducted on **May 27th at 5:00 PM, June 5th at 9:00 AM, June 10th at 5:00 PM, June 26th at 9:00 AM.**

We will have our own table at the test. You will have the opportunity to fill out a contact info sheet, enroll in NYSUT, and receive the new JBLC Directory. Even if you are already a member of NYSUT as a teacher, you still need to enroll IN OUR CHAPTER. You're already paying dues. By enrolling, you'll get all the rights that come with that. Filling out the contact sheet will help us immensely. Among other benefits, you'll get updates and the B&B via email ASAP. Please stop by our table at the rehire.

Leadership Meeting Schedule

Executive Board Meetings Usually the Wednesday prior to BRA meetings, at Tom Donovan's home. These are open **only** to Executive Board members or invited guests. Meetings start at 7:00 PM. Reports from committees are presented at the EB meetings. The committee Chair is expected to present the report in person (or thru an alternate). Each committee has been assigned a month to make its report.

Executive Board Meeting Dates: May 5.

Beach Representative Assembly (BRA) Meetings Usually the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at NYSUT offices, 1000 Woodbury Rd., Suite 214, Woodbury. Winter meetings start at 7:00 PM ; 7:30 PM in the Summer (June through September).

BRA Meeting Dates: May 12.

Stay Connected

We encourage you to get into the habit of viewing each website. Some of the same information will appear on both sites. But each will also have content specific to its intended viewers.
The JBLC is a chapter of the NYSLC, so NYSLC news is pertinent to you as well.

To access the **Jones Beach Lifeguard Corps** website, click here **www.jblc.net**

To access the **New York State Lifeguard Corps** website, click here **www.nyslc.net**