



The Bucket and Buoy

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JBLC Dennis M. Kane, Editor JUNE 1, 2010

Welcome Back!

The JBLC's annual rite of passage known as the Rehire Test was held on Saturday, May 22, at Nassau Community College. It also served as an informal and joyous reunion for old friends. There are several other opportunities to take the test. See page 3 for more details.

The entire process of the swim and run for time, paperwork, equipment pickup and workplace video presentation went smoothly, with last years' logjams noticeably absent. We appreciate management's positive response to our comments about this issue.

For the first time, we had a Union table, where NYSUT's Peter Martineau was busy signing up new members. Over 200 of you signed up. **The major misunderstanding is that enrollment will cost you more money. Wrong. You're already paying dues. Why not get all the rights that go along with that? Please enroll today.**

The Bucket & Buoy ("United We Stand") was available at the Union table as well. If you didn't get a copy, please go to www.jblc.net.

Dear Fellow Union Members,
By now you should have received your New York State Lifeguard Corps By-Laws. The By-Laws are the foundation of our Union. They allow us to operate and meet the needs of the membership. Our ability to distribute dues, conduct elections, and represent you to management are all part of the By-Laws.
We need you to vote FOR ratification.
Thanks for your support of our new union.

Bruce Meirowitz, NYSLC President
Tom Donovan, NYSLC 1st Vice President





Leadership Meeting Schedule And Other Important Dates

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: Wednesday, June 2, at 7:00 PM.

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: June 09 at 7:00 PM (regularly scheduled meeting at NYSUT),
June 11 at 7:00 PM (pre-draft update at WBH upstairs).

Draft: Saturday, June 12, starting at 6:00 PM, WBH upstairs.

New Hire Test: Sunday, June 13, starting at 7:30 AM. Timed 100 yard swim and cross-chest at NCCC. Remainder of test at Jones Beach. (See www.jblc.net for more details.)

Full Opening: Saturday, June 26.



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Long Island Region - Belmont Lake State Park, P.O. Box 247, Babylon, NY 11702-0247
www.nysparks.com

David A. Paterson
Governor
Carol Ash
Commissioner

April 23, 2010

Dear Lifeguard:

Due to circumstances surrounding the 2010 opening of the West Bathhouse pool, the remaining requalifying procedures for the 2010 season only, will be indoors at the Nassau Community College pool. After the swim component you will return to the West Bathhouse at Jones Beach to view the required training videos. The run component will follow in the parking lot at Field 5. Please report directly to the swimming area at NCC promptly at the times indicated below.

- > Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.
- > Saturday, June 5, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.
- > Thursday, June 10, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.
- > Saturday, June 26, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Please note, the test date of Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. is open to all candidates and provides an additional opportunity to requalify for lifeguards who are working opening weekend.

Candidates who fail to qualify may retry at any of the additional opportunities listed above. Failure to qualify by Saturday, June 26, 2010 will make you ineligible for employment for the 2010 season. As in the past, officers must requalify prior to the draft (6/12/10).

Reminder: The Saturday, May 22, 2010 procedure at Nassau Community College

- 2:00 PM: Check-in, completion of paperwork, photo identification etc.
- 2:30 PM: Approximate time of first swim heat in the pool
- 4:00 PM: Last swim heat
- 3:00 PM: Approximate first run heat
- 5:00 PM: Last run heat

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

Legislature Accepts Paterson Parks Funding Bill

The Senate just voted, as did the Assembly to accept Gov. Paterson's bill that funds the parks, so those 55 parks and historic sites will be open after all. State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Carol Ash today directed agency staff to open the gates at all state parks for the Memorial Day weekend and expeditiously get campgrounds, golf courses and historic sites into full operating status.

"The agency staff is thrilled to get back to doing what they do best – which is running the finest state park system in the nation. I know that New Yorkers across the state worked very hard to support their public parks over the last few months. Now I hope they will get out and enjoy these beautiful places this Memorial Day weekend and throughout the upcoming season," Ash said. "I am grateful to Governor Paterson and the Legislature for finding a way to fully open our great park system this summer, which was an extremely difficult challenge in this struggling economy."

Ash said staff will immediately reopen gates to parking lots and unlock the facilities to make them available for normal day-use activities, including picnicking, hiking, cycling and fishing. Other amenities will become available over the next few days as workers who have been reassigned return to their regular work sites and normal levels of seasonal park workers and lifeguards are hired.

To coincide with the full opening of the state park system, the holiday weekend also marks the beginning of a new summer campaign to encourage New Yorkers to visit their state parks and historic sites and take full advantage of the more than 213 properties across the state. The initiative will utilize the agency website, www.nysparks.com, as well as Facebook and Twitter.

Beaches and pools: Park beaches and pools are expected to open on-schedule. Beaches and pools open between Memorial Day weekend and late June. Efforts are being made to open all facilities on schedule.

Campgrounds: Fifty-five campgrounds encompassing 9,400 campsites, cabins and cottages are open for the season. Ash noted that those campgrounds are 85 percent booked for the Memorial Day weekend. At 11 other campgrounds, with about 285 sites, park managers will take immediate steps to comply with health and safety regulations to allow the campgrounds to open for visitors. Reservations at Canoe Point, Cedar Island, Eel Weir, Hunt's Pond, Keewaydin, Macomb Reservation, Mary Island, Max V. Shaul, Newtown Battlefield, Oquaga Creek and Rudd Pond will be accepted beginning Friday, May 28. Check the agency website for campground availability. Reservations are accepted for campsites and cabins from one day to nine months in advance of the planned arrival date by calling toll free 1-800-456-CAMP or online, www.nysparks.com.

Ash noted that there are over 74,000 campsites, cabins and cottages reserved for nearly 313,000 nights so far for the 2010 season, a level that is slightly ahead of last year's record pace. Advance reservations at state parks campgrounds have been steadily increasing in recent years.

Historic sites: Tours at historic sites shut by the fiscal crisis will resume the week of June 6, but the grounds will be open for Memorial Day weekend.

Golf: Bonavista and Springbrook open on or about June 7.

Judge Grants Injunction Against Paterson Furlough Plan

By [NICHOLAS CONFESSORE](#)

In a strongly worded ruling, the judge, Lawrence E. Kahn of Federal District Court in Albany, said the furloughs were unconstitutional and would irreparably harm the workers by denying them salaries and raises they were entitled to under collective bargaining agreements. Mr. Paterson included a one-day furlough of about 100,000 workers as part of an emergency spending bill that he submitted — and that the Legislature passed — last month to keep the government operating in the absence of a final state budget agreement. [More furloughs were expected](#) had the plan survived the court challenge.

“Plaintiffs have met their burden of showing that the permanent 20 percent loss in salary and wages that the furlough plan effects constitutes irreparable harm,” Judge Kahn said, “and that irreparable harm flows from defendants’ failure to pay the contracted-for increases in salaries and wages.”

The ruling was a blow to the Paterson administration, which has struggled to find ways to keep the state from running out of money while trying to persuade the Legislature to agree to deeper budget cuts. It raised the prospect that Mr. Paterson might soon seek to lay off state workers to save money.

In issuing the injunction, Judge Kahn found that the Paterson administration had failed to meet the burden of showing that the furloughs would serve a legitimate public purpose that was urgent enough to allow the state government to negate its contracts with workers.

He noted that Mr. Paterson had folded the furloughs into difficult-to-amend emergency budget legislation after the unions had failed to agree to a voluntary deal on wage cuts, and that lawmakers had made clear that they believed the furloughs were illegal even as they approved the budget bills.

Judge Kahn also appeared to chide the administration for not considering alternatives. “The contractual impairments were the sudden and sole work of the executive and were proposed in a manner that largely precluded legislative deliberation,” Judge Kahn wrote.

Union leaders praised the ruling. “This is a victory for state employees and for state taxpayers,” said Kenneth Brynien, the president of the Public Employees Federation, one of several unions that sued to block the furloughs. “This decision will allow state services to continue uninterrupted and prevent hardships to the taxpayers who depend on them.”

In a separate statement, Danny Donohue, the president of another union that sued Mr. Paterson, the Civil Service Employees Association, said the ruling “should make it clear that no governor can run roughshod over people’s rights.” Mr. Donohue said his union “can only hope that the governor will recognize that his incompetent and arrogant approach to New York’s budget crisis has been entirely counter-productive.” Mr. Paterson said he was disappointed by the ruling. He called on legislative leaders to work with him on bringing unions back to the bargaining table.

“Both houses of the Legislature agree with my assertion that New York’s public employee unions must contribute, along with all other New Yorkers, to solving this extraordinary fiscal crisis,” Mr. Paterson said.