



THE GUARDIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE LIFEGUARD CORPS Dennis M. Kane, Editor May 26, 2010

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the members of the New York State Lifeguard Corps. Whether we are in a city, on the Atlantic shore, in the lakes and mountains, on our mighty rivers or in our tranquil valleys, let us be grateful for the gift of another summer on the water.

Welcome to the Allegany Park, Central New York, Department of Conservation, Finger Lakes, Genesee Park, Long Island, New York City, Niagara Frontier Park, OMHMRDD, Palisades, Saratoga, Capital District, Taconic Park and the Thousand Island regions.

To all of us who serve and protect the people of New York, welcome back.

Your Union had a busy winter. In addition to many informal contacts, we met at NYSUT headquarters in Albany with GOER and other State agencies seeking settlement of our long-outstanding contract issues. We held our first Representative Assembly. We adopted By Laws, passed a budget, and dealt with numerous other issues. (For the full story, see 3-29-10 Guardian.) At recent re-hire events, we signed up @ 300 new members.

We use this website and newsletter to keep you informed. (Eventually we will deliver it to you by email as well.) In addition, I and other Executive Board members have begun touring the state to meet with you. I want to meet the Ivy Wood's of Minawaska and the Ari Citrin's of Lake Welch. Each of you has a story. Our goal is to hear all those stories.

Last week, I had the privilege of meeting the gang from the Palisades region. At their re-hire event, I watched the embraces of a corps that shares special bonds to a job and each other.

I met veterans like Ed Cevoli from the Palisades, and saw the respect given him by his guards. Matt Hout told me stories of the Niagara River region. Chris Tappan impressed me with his commitment to the Finger Lakes.

I met and spoke with Tim Forsyth from Staten Island. This winter, your Union successfully resolved significant issues that Staten Island guards had with OMHMRDD. Jones Beach Chapter President Tom Donovan explained how the JBLC has created new and stronger mutual understandings with the Parks Commission. He and I reviewed participation in public rallies designed to keep parks open.

On May 24th, we were officially recognized by the American Federation of Teachers and New York State United Teachers as an official Local. NYSLC's first Executive Board proudly received our founding Charter from Richard Iannuzzi, the President of this vast union. In addition, we were handed the official list of the founding members of our new union. More than parchment, in our hands we held the legacy for the future of the New York State Lifeguard Corps, your future, your Corps.

This week in the Palisades, I looked in the faces of our younger guards. I feel your pain. Statewide, I hear your cry for recognition and support. Since 2003, you have endured hardship above and beyond that of many State employees.

I just passed my rehire test, so this will be my 42nd year as an ocean lifeguard. We share in the ultimate responsibility of saving lives. I take pride in that, as you do.

I also take pride in representing you with the State. But we can't do the job alone.

I need to hear from you, so that I know what needs to be fixed or improved.

(516.551.1875 / brucemeiro@yahoo.com)

We are a special breed. We risk our lives to save others. I believe our state's leaders understand our commitment, and value of the lives we protect. Things are tough in this economy, but there is no value that can be placed on a person's life. I believe the State will hear our plea, see our injustice, and reach out to us as we have reached out to the people of New York all these years.

The political challenge is daunting, especially in this economic environment. We are more organized, and have elected delegates throughout the state. But we need more people to get involved.

You must register as a member, so you can hold elected positions, vote, participate in Union-building activities, and arrange for dues to be returned to your region. (Even if you are already a member of NYSUT, you must enroll in your lifeguard chapter as well.)

We will continue to represent you, to protect you, to improve your working conditions.

United we stand, divided we fall. Join us as we move forward.

I look forward to seeing you all! Have a safe and joyous summer.

In Lifeguarding and Solidarity,

Bruce Meirowitz

President, New York State Lifeguard Corps

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.

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

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

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICY

The mission of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors, and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources.

In order to fulfill this mission, agency staff must be able to pursue their work-related responsibilities free from workplace violence. Workplace violence is generally defined by the New York State Department of Labor as a physical assault or act of threatening or aggressive behavior occurring where a public employee performs a work-related duty. OPRHP's objective is to take steps to prevent incidents of workplace violence and to respond to mitigate the effects of workplace violence if it does occur.

All supervisors and employees are responsible for maintaining a safe and secure workplace, utilizing safe work practices, fostering mutual respect, and following all policies, procedures, and health and safety program requirements.

The Director of Law Enforcement (for all Park Police personnel) and the Director of Health, Safety and Emergency Management (for Operations and non Park Police administrative staff) are responsible for the development and implementation of a workplace violence prevention program including provisions for completing a workplace violence hazard assessment with annual reviews, development of prevention strategies, and employee training. Opportunities shall be provided to authorized employee representatives to participate in the written program development, workplace assessments, and prevention strategy development in accordance with § 27-b of the state Labor Law.

Any workplace violence incident that poses an immediate threat to an employee's or visitor's safety should be reported directly to the New York State Park Police or other local law enforcement entity and then to the employee's supervisor.

All other potential workplace violence instances such as threatening behavior or language should be reported directly to the employee's immediate supervisor. An employee who is unable to report a workplace violence incident to his or her immediate supervisor may report non-emergency incidents to the Director of Health, Safety and Emergency Management (for Operations 518 486-2922) or Director of Law Enforcement (for Park Police 518 474-4029).

A copy of this policy shall be conspicuously posted at each workplace.

This policy is effective immediately.

Dated: April 22, 2010



Carol Ash
Commissioner



800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110-2455 ■ (518) 213-6000 ■ www.nysut.org

Richard C. Iannuzzi, President
Alan B. Lubin, Executive Vice President
Maria Neira, Vice President
Kathleen M. Donahue, Vice President
Lee Cutler, Secretary-Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

I, _____ hereby enroll as a member of the New York State Lifeguard Corps, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and its national affiliate, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), AFL-CIO. I understand that my membership will become effective on the first day of the month indicated on this signed enrollment form.

Union dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes. Dues paid, however, may qualify as business expenses and may be deductible in limited circumstances subject to various restrictions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. Dues for membership in NYSUT and AFT are as specified in each respective organization's Constitution and Bylaws, and may be amended from time to time.

New York State United Teachers maintains dual affiliation with the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO and the National Education Association where applicable. Membership in the State and National organizations must come through a local unit of NYSUT.

Membership in NYSUT or any successor organization begins, and eligibility for benefits is effective, as of the month/year indicated on this signed enrollment form. Membership is continuous and carries over automatically from year to year. Re-enrollment is not necessary unless the member changes employers; except that membership shall be deemed continuous where there is: (a) merger or consolidation of employing entities or governmental units; (b) an accretion of any existing local or bargaining unit; and/or (c) a successor employer. NYSUT reserves the right to recognize continuous membership in any other instance or circumstance.

Membership dues include subscriptions to the publications of NYSUT and AFT. NYSUT includes a \$12.00 for a subscription to New York Teacher for one year. AFT dues include \$20.00 for a subscription to American Teacher.

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____ Phone Number _____

Signature _____ Month/Year Effective ____/____

Return to NYSUT
Attn: Member Records
800 Troy Schenectady Road
Latham, NY 12110

Fax: 518-213-6477

New York State United Teachers
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