



THE GUARDIAN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK STATE LIFEGUARD CORPS Dennis M. Kane, Editor July 16, 2010

At a Crossroads

After many months of effort, our contract proposal has been held up in the state budget process. We are awaiting a response from the Governor's Office of Employee Relations to conclude the process. We continue to press for a settlement.

Our NYSUT/UUP reps have been working hard to bring the process to a good conclusion. That will continue during this critical period in July. We reached out to our friends as well, including LI State senators and assemblymen. We are fortunate to have one of our own, Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg, a long-term lifeguard at LI beaches and an advocate in state government.

The Legislature left for the July 4th holiday, but will return July 19th. We recently posted a request for action on your part. We need **everyone** to contact their legislator before they return, urging them to act on our behalf. The squeaky wheel gets the oil. If you have another way to contact them, please do so. But we are encouraging you to **use our process first**. Click on <http://bit.ly/aL8Rgj> and follow the simple instructions. The Legislature's return provides another opportunity to make our case. Let's make the best of it.

The JBLC Beach Rep Assembly (BRA) met at West Bath House at Jones Beach on Wednesday, July 13. Our NYSUT rep Peter Martineau updated us on the current status of our contract proposal. Everyone was extremely frustrated and calling for the Corps to act now.

After much review, we agreed to begin with informational picketing at Jones Beach Field 6 on Wed. July 21, at 8:30 AM. NYSLC President Bruce Meirowitz displayed the placards. "Contract Now", "8 Years No Raise", "Lifeguards Do More With Less" and "Saving Lives for 8 Years without a Contract" are some of the slogans. The media has been alerted and is coming.

Since this a statewide issue, we are calling you to join us en masse, in uniform, to show the Governor that he can't ignore us anymore. Bring friends, family and co-workers. Guards who are also teachers should contact their NYSUT teacher local, encouraging them to join other NYSUT members fighting for a contract. Show them the letter.

The letter on page 2 is an eloquent summary of our position. It is only part of the activity NYSUT, UUP and the JBLC are involved in. Beginning with the picketing, an overall strategy has been formulated. As this process unfolds, we will ramp up our efforts to convince the State to successfully conclude our Taylor Law-based collective bargaining negotiations as soon as possible. Since we cannot publicly divulge the specifics, we encourage you to contact your Delegate for more details.

This will work. But we need EVERYONE to act! Enough is enough! There is strength in numbers. If you cannot come, use the link and motivate your co-workers to do the same.

NYSLC President Bruce Meirowitz displaying some of the placards.



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Thomas Donovan
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Dennis Kane
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Regional Delegates
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Finger Lakes Park
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Genesee Park

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Mark Davy
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July 12, 2010

Mr. Gary Johnson, Director
Governor's Office of Employee Relations
2 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Pursuant to our official negotiations ground rules, please accept this letter as notice that the New York State Lifeguard Corps Chapter intends to initiate informational picketing and communication with various media contacts concerning our nearly 8 year plight to gain a successor agreement to our last contract ending in 2003. Our informational picketing and press outreach is planned for the end of July.

The NYSLC/UUP/NYSUT/AFT has been officially negotiating with the State since July 2009—one year. Yet our negotiations are at a standstill for no apparent reason. As a result, while we are fully cognizant of the State's fiscal travails, we ask the State of New York to consider the fiscal plight of its lifeguards: 8 years without a raise is too long a period of time by any measure.

We are aware of no other State union-represented employee or state M/C employee who has gone 8 years without a salary increase. Additionally, it is our understanding that Governor Paterson has recently submitted paybills to the Legislature for certain collective bargaining agreements, indicating collective bargaining has taken place and has been concluded during this difficult economic period for the State.

Lifeguards have been saving countless lives over the last 8 years without any consideration from the State concerning the fiscal plight of its lifeguard employees. Moreover, the record heat this summer has placed increased pressures on lifeguards around the State due to the large increase in attendance at State beaches, lakes and pools.

Lifeguards have always fulfilled their mission to protect the public and save lives to the best of their abilities, sometimes risking their own personal safety. The numerous awards State lifeguards have received are testimony to our dedication. The State and its citizens are the beneficiaries of such dedication. All we ask in return is that State lifeguards receive fair and equitable treatment in relation to other State employee unions.

We would greatly appreciate the Paterson Administration's assistance and consideration to successfully conclude our Taylor Law-based collective bargaining negotiations as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Bruce Meirowitz
President
New York State Lifeguard Corps Chapter

John Marino
NYSLC Chief Negotiator and
UUP VP for Professionals
United University Professionals



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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

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