

Minutes for the February 17, 2021, NYSLC Representative Assembly Virtual Meeting

Present:

Executive Board Officers: Ryan Clark, James Rooney, Matthew Hout, Tim Mondello, Bradley Smith

Allegany Region:

Central New York Region: Ashley Pigg

DEC:

Finger Lakes Region:

Genesee Region: Peter Howlett

Long Island Region: Kevin Woods, Joe Clerici, DJ Paulson, Sarah Daly, Callie Vacchiano

New York City Region:

Niagara Frontier Region: Bryan Collins

O.P.W.D.D.:

Palisades Interstate Region:

Saratoga/Capital Region: John Ferrie

Taconic Region:

Thousand Islands Region: Kris Shirley

Immediate Past President: Bruce Meirowitz

Audit Committee: Derek Angermaier

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 8:34 pm by President R. Clark
- Thanks was extended to all who were in attendance

Opening Remarks

- R. Clark went over the results of the election
- Well run election, all paperwork went out on time
- Only 85 members voted-not a great number for voting
- NYSLC needs to get all regions representatives and more members voting
- J. Rooney traveled to the Taconic region this past summer and some members were interested but none have signed up to be a representative

Introductions

- All Representative Assembly members introduced themselves
- R. Clark NYSLC may need to update the bylaws
- Took a moment of silence for those who were lost and were affected by COVID-19.
 - o Former Jones Beach lifeguard Reggie Jones who lifeguarded for 64 seasons, died at 93
- T. Mondello sent out the minutes from the July 28, 2020 meeting to all NYSLC Representatives to review
- The minutes from the July 28, 2020, were reviewed by all Representatives

- *Motion by M. Hout to accept the minutes, second by DJ Paulson (Passed unanimously)*

Presidents Report

R. Clark

- Very busy summer and successful summer
- Spoke with R. Alden and only 6/7 COVID-19 cases for lifeguards all season
- Park system as a whole increased 5% and Long Island increased 20%
- Robert Moses State Park had 1.6 million more patrons in 2020, even with parking restrictions in place
- Jones Beach State Park had 160,000 more patrons in 2020 even with parking restrictions in place and this was without any July 4th fireworks, air show or concerts
- Sustained crowds all summer long
- R. Clark thanked everyone who made the summer happen

Riverbank

- o Indoor pool has not been open since 3/18/20
- o Lifeguards were kept on full salary and have been in the pool area but not doing much work
- o The indoor pool can't open due to ventilation
- o Outdoor pool opened in June
- o Lifeguards worked at other parks and came back to Riverbank
- o Never kept training records
- o Lifeguard was disciplined for not answer his cell phone while on duty from management
- o Incompetent management staff at Riverbank
- DJ Paulson spoke with management and he is not sure about the 2021 rehire tests
 - o There are no qualification exams since no pools are open. R. Alden is working on this
- R. Clark stated, there might be a repeat of last summer with lifeguards who worked the summer before would not need to take the rehire test but there would be additional training time for water training as the water gets warmer
- COVID-19 sites at Jones Beach will be there for a while
- JBLC wrote to Governor Cuomo to get lifeguards on the 1B group as first responders for COVID-19 vaccinations
- R. Clark updated the sexual harassment training and this training will take place at the 2021 summer Representative Assembly meeting
- NYSLC Representatives are subject to two sexual harassment policies, NYS Parks and NYSLC
- New York State Continuity of Operations
 - o Would like to see lifeguards mentioned as designate
- NYSLC Representative should read over the document and send R. Clark ideas by the end of February
- Pay raise grievance- Governor Cuomo suspended all 2% pay raises and this suspension will not be lifted anytime soon
- Riverbank will be put into UUP grievance binding arbitration

- UUP has not received any raises either
- No payroll bulletins have been sent in
- NYS usually pays retroactive pay
- JBLC appointed Jimmy Cash as a representative for the Committee of 100
 - o Committee of 100 is for local presidents or a designee to go to Albany and meet with Assembly members and Senators
 - o Will push the letter to Governor Cuomo for lifeguards to be added to the 1B group as first responders for COVID-19 vaccinations
- Tobay Ocean Lifeguard Association and Smith Point Lifeguard's Association are represented by UUP

Grievances

- One pending action
- NYSLC members with three years or more of service are entitled to an exit interview
- Sexual harassment will get you fired
 - o JBLC member who was accused of workplace violence was sent to another beach due to non-conclusive evidence in the complaint
- Weingarten cards-if management wants to talk to you about an incident, you can and have a right to get representation

Treasures Report

B. Smith

- NYSLC is in good financial shape
- NYSLC has not had live Representative Assembly meetings, which has saved money
- \$66,331.26 as of 2/17/21
- \$40,453 as of 2/17/20-All of the winter Representative Assembly meeting expenses were not cashed
- \$35,773.93 2020
- \$31,500 difference from 2020 and 2021
- \$10,000 paid to NYSUT in the next few months
- \$20,000 ahead
- B. Smith stated NYSLC could up the amount for Return to Chapter
- \$56,340.63 7/28/20
- \$66,642.08 in dues brought in 2020
- \$42,283.88 NYSUT
- \$9,550 stipends
- \$4,817.57 Return to Chapter paid out
- NYSLC owed IRS \$8,800, and this may get knocked down to zero
- B. Smith stated NYSUT has local treasures meeting that goes over local budgeting, tax refunds, etc
- If NYSLC Representatives earn more than \$600 a year in stipends, then they will receive a 1099 tax form
- NYSLC will be issuing 1099 forms for 2021 and in the future

- 1100 statewide members, 820 consistent members, B. Smith will send out this information
- Supplement
 - o Total Expenses
 - o \$95,229.09
 - o NYSUT/AFT
 - o UUP
 - o Meeting, administrative stipends
- Budget for next year-planning
- Return to Chapter is decided by how many members per region
- M. Hout proposed getting out of pen/pencil membership forms
 - o Barcode, online
- R. Clark online enrollment with QR code
- B. Collins suggested a form (Google/Microsoft) to send to members or potential members
- R. Clark will check into this but will need permission from NYSUT
- JBLC and Western District will need to show/submit bank statements to B. Smith
- *Motion by B. Smith for special onetime increase in Return to Chapter to \$43 per member, second by M. Hout (Passed unanimously)*

By-law Changes/Committee Restructuring/Assignments

- R. Clark appointed D. Angermaier to Audit Committee

Regional Reports

Central-A. Pigg

- Season ended well
- Much better job done than she thought at the beginning of the year
- One staff member contracted COVID-19, but did not spread to anyone else
- Increase number of patrons through the whole summer
- Sending R. Clark scanned member forms

Genesee-P. Howlett

- Is a college student and lifeguards at Hamlin State Park
- Good summer
- No COVID-19 cases

Long Island- DJ Paulson

- Parks had 8.3 million visitors and this was without concerts, 4th of July fireworks, and air show which bring in approximately 1 million visitors
- 6 million at Robert Moses State Park had a 39% increase. The bridge to get to the park was closed around 10-10:30 almost daily
- Lifeguards at Robert Moses were called in 3 hours early and paid overtime to avoid the bridge closure
- One investigation of a lifeguard
- One positive COVID-19 lifeguard case
- Some lifeguards had to go into quarantine protocol
- Field 2 had a drowning and had a meeting with management and lifeguards

- Submersion kits are to be at all beaches this summer with drills to practice the skills
- Employee Assistance Program coordinator position was developed
- Summer 2021 meeting
 - o Rehire test is still in discussion
 - o Small groups of 12 lifeguards for American Red Cross CPR certifications
- Lifeguards had some exceptional live CPR
- Maybe recognize lifeguards who go above and beyond

New York City R. Clark

- Riverbank outdoor pool opened
- One or two COVID-19 cases
- Indoor work is in progress and should be opening in the next 2-3 weeks

Niagara- B. Collins /T. Mondello

- Very busy summer with patrons
- Worked well with management
- Team building activities
- Lifeguards stepped up appropriately in emergencies
- B. Collins and other Niagara Region lifeguards were Lifeguard Instructor certified and were compensated for the time
- Bought members stickers and crewnecks for return to chapter
- B. Collins reached out to Allegany for a representative, needs to follow up
- NYSLC Niagara Region Instagram account was created
- No lifeguard COVID-19 cases
- Had a Formal Inspection Competition run by the Regional Health and Safety Manager
 - o Beaver Island State Park won and received a plaque

Saratoga/Capital-J. Ferrie

- Good summer
- Challenging with all the new COVID-19 protocols
- Staffed more lifeguards
- J. Ferrie did a membership drive
- Certification/recertification may be a problem, there are not many courses running and there is a lack of Lifeguard Instructors

Thousand Islands-K. Shirley

- K. Shirley was only a Chief lifeguard this summer and not doing the Water Safety Coordination position due to COVID-19
- Busy summer with patrons
- Had major first aids with ambulance and hospitals
- Signed up new members from the park where is working

- R. Clark stated that a screen shot, photo or scanning of membership forms is acceptable. The forms can be sent to him or directly to NYSUT

Old Business/New Business

- 100 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway is the new address for NYSUT and the correct address to mail membership forms
- S. Daley had questions from her members about changing our status from Seasonal/Temporary to either seasonal or temporary
- R. Clark stated the summer meeting may be virtual and will be held the second or third week of July
- B. Meirowitz stated FEMA has a medical reserve corps that lifeguards/people can join to give COVID-19 test or clerical work and they will be moved up on the vaccination list for their help

Non-Representative Period

R. Clark reminded all Reparative Assembly members to fill out their reimbursement forms for their time at the hourly rate of \$20 hour for 3 hours
President R. Clark thanked everyone for coming

Motion to adjourn made by M. Hout at 10:25, seconded S. Daly (Passed Unanimous)