

Candidate Statement - Justin E. Yodice

Candidate for President, New York State Lifeguard Corps (NYSLC)

I am proud to announce my candidacy for President of the New York State Lifeguard Corps.

Throughout my career, I have dedicated myself to public service, leadership, and advocating for the people I serve. I believe our union deserves leadership that is transparent, accessible, fiscally responsible, and committed to protecting the interests of every lifeguard.

For more than ten years, I have served in emergency services, first as an EMT and now as a firefighter. Working alongside police, fire, and EMS professionals has given me firsthand experience with organizations built on strong leadership, accountability, and member representation. Serving within these systems has taught me the importance of effective governance, clear communication, and advocating for those who put themselves on the line every day. That experience provides me with a unique perspective on the challenges facing our profession and strengthens my ability to advocate for the recognition, resources, and protections our lifeguards deserve.

Professionally, I currently serve as the Chief Operating Officer of Atlantic Counter Trafficking, a nonprofit organization dedicated to combating human trafficking. In this role, I oversee operations, strategic planning, and partnerships with government agencies and community organizations. Previously, I served as Chief Financial Officer, where I was responsible for financial oversight, budgeting, and ensuring accountability in every aspect of the organization's finances. These leadership positions have strengthened my negotiation skills, taught me how to navigate difficult conversations with professionalism, and reinforced the importance of finding solutions while never losing sight of the people I represent.

I also own and operate multiple businesses and earned my degree in Finance from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College. Those experiences have given me a strong foundation in financial management, strategic planning, and responsible decision-making. Whether

negotiating contracts, managing budgets, or solving complex problems, I understand the importance of preparation, accountability, and following through on commitments.

If elected, my priorities will be simple. I will advocate for fair wages and benefits, strengthen communication between leadership and the membership, promote transparency in decision-making, support professional development, and continue improving the safety and working conditions of every lifeguard. I believe members deserve leadership that is visible, approachable, and accountable throughout the entire term, not only when contract negotiations take place.

Our union is strongest when every member knows their voice matters. I will always welcome ideas, encourage open dialogue, and represent every member fairly and professionally, regardless of experience or seniority. My commitment is to serve with integrity, work collaboratively, and always put the interests of the membership first. I respectfully ask for your support and the opportunity to serve as your President. Together, we can build a

stronger, more unified, and more effective New York State Lifeguard Corps.

- Justin E. Yodice

Candidate Statement - Ryan Clark

Candidate for President, New York State Lifeguard Corps (NYSLC)

Over the last 8 years, it has been an honor to serve as your president and help guide the union through some challenging but rewarding times. When first elected, we feared the worst from an adverse decision for organized labor by the Supreme Court, but came out stronger, and we have continued to increase our membership year over year.

Over the last 8 years, the NYSLC has advocated for members as they faced the burdens that the lifeguard shortage created for everyone working. Through consistent pressure and

communication with senior management in Parks, we were able to get raises outside of a contractual agreement when Governor Hochul authorized across-the-board raises for our members in 2022. We then filed and won successful grievances against Parks and DEC when they failed to properly give retro payments to members who had worked all four holidays in 2022 and 2023. As other issues have arisen, the NYSLC, through the Delegate Assembly, has helped to create priorities and strategies that have led to some significant gains for all the members.

During my time as president, we have gained:

- An extra day of holiday pay, which was backdated to 2022 and will continue moving forward.
- A more robust Involuntary Separation Review process to protect members against arbitrary discipline from the region.
- Employee Organization Leave for executive board members so we can represent the membership in: labor-management meetings, grievance hearings, contract negotiations, and disciplinary hearings on the clock to better serve you.
- A \$75,000 joint labor management fund to pay for certifications related to lifeguarding and two new longevity lump sum payments.
- 20 hours of paid Pre-Natal Care leave for all members.
- Access to 12 weeks of paid Parental leave for Civil Service Time and Attendance eligible employees who work in year-round seasonal positions.
- A Joint Labor Management Committee to address issues of lifeguards working out of title and to codify progressive measures of discipline throughout the regions.
- A five year contract with raises of 4.5%, 4.0%, 3.5%, 3.0%, and 3.0% ending in 2031

I have been honored to serve as the representative of our state affiliate NYSUT as a member of the Public Employees Program and Policy Council for our national affiliate AFT. In this role, I help to shape policy of the national union for all public employees. I secured help from other

council members in passing a resolution created by the NYSLC at the 2024 national convention creating new policy in which the AFT will work to secure lifeguards first responder status and the accompanying benefits that we deserve by fighting for the passage of a Congressional Concurrent Resolution currently before the House. If elected to another term, I will continue the work of representing members and advocating for enhanced pay, benefits, and working conditions that reflect the important role we play for our agencies. I hope to continue serving your interests and make our jobs as lifeguards for New York State even better.

-Ryan Clark