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Area lifeguards honored by towns

*By Andrew Ostroski
Staff Writer*

BETHANY BEACH --Some of the area's top lifeguards were recently honored by the Bethany-Fenwick Area Chamber of Commerce for their hard work and dedication.

The Chamber's annual gathering recognizes those who have gone above and beyond to protect area beachgoers. This year, representatives from Bethany Beach, Delaware Seashore State Parks, Fenwick Island, North Bethany and South Bethany were in attendance.

Honors went to Andrew Cavaliere of Bethany Beach, Chris Rutter from the state parks, Courtney Aburn of Fenwick Island, Chris Ciaffi of Sea Colony, William Weeks of South Bethany and Phil Hudson of North Bethany.

Recipients were honored for their bravery, skills and leadership while on the job, and each captain in attendance talked about their honored guard. Tim Ferry of the Fenwick Island Beach Patrol applauded Aburn on her place as a role model on the patrol.

"Courtney has ... that determination, that focus that you want and look for in any type of lifeguard," he said. "She is on top of things. She is a leader in the mornings in our workouts. Courtney really has made her mark."

The ceremony also had the first award recipient for North Bethany in Hudson, who was awarded by Captain Steve O'Boyle. He also took the time to acknowledge the other beach patrol captains in attendance and salute the honored guards.

"We train all of these lifeguards for the worst day of somebody else's life," he said. "If it's you, if it's a family member or a friend, that's why these guards are picked. We trust them."

In addition to the awards, the towns of Bethany Beach, South Bethany and Fenwick Island were each awarded \$500 from the Chamber to help offset some of the costs of keeping their lifeguard programs running through the early off-season.

"The Chamber actively promotes tourism in the fall, and we appreciate the towns' commitment to funding some of the lifeguard services through September," said Carrie Subity, membership director.

"For 15 years the Chamber has contributed to this effort, and we are pleased to contribute this year."

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