

# LOU CIRIGLIANO, JR.

## CASINO PIER AND BREAKWATER BEACH

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, NEW JERSEY, U.S.A.



Cirigliano resigned from the board to concentrate on Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts as Casino Pier was the "face of the storm" on the Eastern seaboard.

... 'Cause down the shore everything's all right.....

Lou Cirigliano, Jr., started out in his career after graduating from Rutgers University in 1986. He worked in the guest services field with General Mills, running several of their high volume restaurants. In 1989, he became part of the management team at Tan Tara Country Club in North Tonawanda, N.Y. He then moved back home to the Jersey shore in 1993 to take over as the GM of the legendary Tradewinds nightclub in Sea Bright, N.J., one of the largest entertainment venues on the Jersey Shore and host to many national touring acts such as Bon Jovi and Bruce Springsteen. In 2003, after Tradewinds was closed, Cirigliano moved to Seaside Heights to begin his involvement in the amusement and waterpark industry.

In 2005, he took over the operations of Breakwater Beach Waterpark after its transformation from Water Works. During his tenure, Breakwater Beach hit sales records during several of their seasons. In 2009, Breakwater Beach was the winner of the Kelly Ogle Memorial Safety Award for significant contribution to guest and employee safety from the WWA. In 2010-2012, 2014 and 2015, Breakwater Beach was chosen as one of the best family attractions in Ocean County, New Jersey by readers of the "Asbury Park Press." Breakwater Beach also was voted favorite family attraction in 2011 by readers of NJ.com in an online poll.

Cirigliano proudly served on the WWA Board of Directors from 2011 until 2013 and was the Board's treasurer from 2012-2013. Cirigliano would have surely served longer on the WWA Board if it hadn't been for Superstorm Sandy. Cirigliano resigned from the board to concentrate on recovery efforts as Casino Pier was the "face of the storm" on the Eastern seaboard. Their roller-coaster, "The Jet Star," fell into the Atlantic Ocean with 5 other major rides, with most of their pier and boardwalk damaged beyond repair. Thanks to the hard work and dedication from all of his team, Cirigliano led the recovery and the property was 100 percent functional by July 2013—only 9 months later. His team not only accomplished this recovery, but inspired the region that indeed the Jersey was coming back!

In 2016, they completely remodeled their properties, opened several new waterpark attractions, added new hard rides and a 36-hole adventure mini-golf course. This fall they are set to expand the pier for 2017. He credits his entire team for all of the properties' success.

Cirigliano doesn't just inspire his own team. He has been an instructor for the WWA University: "Ready, Set, Go! A Guide to Getting Started" panel for several years, sharing his waterpark experiences and inspiring new waterpark operators. No stranger to public speaking, he has participated in many other WWA educational programs as a presenter as well.

Cirigliano currently lives in his childhood home in Middletown, N.J., with his family; and when not at work, he loves to be with his daughters, Taylor and Allie.