



California Surf Lifesaving Association

Southwest Region-United States Lifesaving Association

P0 Box 366 .Huntington Beach, California 92648

World Wide Web: www.cslsa.org

A

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

October 16, 2003

Robert McGowan
President

Thanks to Hans Fernan and the members of the Imperial Beach Lifeguard Association for hosting this meeting. It promises to be a very important meeting for our region, and may potentially affect our future as a region of the USLA.

Don Rohrer
Vice President

Mike Beuerlein
Secretary

Wow, what a summer! This was the hottest and busiest summer I can remember in my thirty plus years as an ocean lifeguard. I don't have the statistics from other chapters, but I know that L.A. County had one of its busiest summers on record. We set records for the Fourth of July, and for the month of July. During July and August, almost 2000 rescues were made, we had over 7500 medical assists, and nearly 10 million people visited our beaches! I'm sure other chapters had similar totals.

Robert Moore
Treasurer

William Richardson
Past President/Advisor

The members of your Executive Board left our Spring Meeting at Dana Point with high hopes of a great meeting in Hawaii. Chris Graham, one of your Executive Delegates, did an outstanding job of organizing the meeting and it promised to be the best USLA meeting ever. The HLA and SHP contributed time and money to make the meeting the best it could be. We had our successful sponsorship relationship with SHP, Inc. and we hoped to share it with the rest of the USLA to "take it to the next level." The Hawaii meeting started off amicably enough, but soon, an undercurrent of discontent became apparent from the other regions of USLA. It became obvious that our relationship with SHP was seen as an impediment to "national sponsorship" opportunities by the other regions. To make a long story short, Scott Hubbell, of SHP, was in Hawaii, prepared to make a national sponsorship proposal to the rest of the USLA, but, politics being what they are, was not even allowed to address the national body with his proposal. After much discussion, and an Executive Board meeting or two, the following motion was made on the final day of the meeting:

Vincent Lombardi
Recurrent Rep

Mike Bartlet
Executive Delegate

Chris Graham
Executive Delegate

Robert Williams
*Executive Delegate
(Alternate)*

Hubbell contract: After considerable discussion, Mr. Hensler moved that "When SHP signs a one year contract with the national USLA, there shall be a simultaneous cancellation of the CSLSA contract. Also, the two elected positions of the regional board who signed the CSLSA contract shall be suspended from the National Board of Directors until such time that a national contract is signed or the CSLSA contract status is resolved to the satisfaction of the national board of directors."

Ms. Wiederhold seconded.

Mr. Richardson queried as to applicability of Article Art V, sec 8 regarding suspension in this matter. Mr. Moore provided clarification. The Secretary called for a roll call to determine how many delegates were present. The chair called for a brief recess.

It was determined that 3/4 of 35 delegates present requires affirmative vote of 27.

After the recess, the vote was Mid-Atlantic 7 yes, South-Atlantic 7 yes, Southeast 4 yes, Great Lakes 6, yes, Gulf Coast 2 yes, Northwest 2 yes, Southwest 7 no.

28 yes, 6 no: motion carried. (Quoted from the Official Minutes of the Spring 2003 USLA Board of Directors Meeting).

So what does that mean to us, the CSLSA? Basically, the USLA Board of Directors chose to suspend Mike Beuerlein and me for signing the contract that you, the CSLSA Board of Directors voted unanimously in Dana Point for us to uphold. Frankly, the decision of the USLA BOD reeks of petty jealousy and schoolyard bully-ism. It was definitely not a very nice way to treat the hosts the meeting. The shortsightedness and regionalism of the USLA reared its ugly head again.

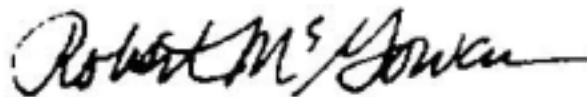
After licking our wounds from the Hawaii meeting, the CSLSA Executive Board met on June 5, 2003. At that meeting, the motives and loyalties of one of the members of the Executive Board was questioned by some of the other board members. Subsequently, Mr. Brewster resigned from the CSLSA Executive Board. A motion was made that Mr. Rob Williams be appointed to replace Mr. Brewster on the Executive Board (Mr. Williams received the next most votes at the last CSLSA election), and the motion passed unanimously. Hopefully you, the Board of Directors will ratify this Executive Board decision here today.

Another action that took place at the June Executive Board meeting was the decision to send a letter to the USLA outlining the CSLSA position regarding the suspension of the CSLSA President and Secretary, expressing the CSLSA's disbelief in the USLA action and its lack of a time certain aspect or remedy. A copy of that letter is attached to this report. This letter was written with the pro bono assistance of Mr. Kenneth Bayer, Esq. who provided us with much help and guidance throughout our negotiations with the USLA and other contractual matters. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

As you can see, we have a great deal of business to take care of at this meeting, not to mention election of officers. At our last Executive Board meeting, a little over two weeks ago, all of the current officers, except Mr. Richardson expressed an interest in staying on for another term. Of course, the ultimate decision is up to you, but in these uncertain times in our dealings with the USLA, it is important that we remain united in our resolve.

There is much more to report that has transpired since our Spring Meeting, but I am going to leave that to the respective officers and committee chairs.

Respectfully submitted



Robert McGowan
President

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August 27, 2003

Robert McGowan
President

Secretary, United States Lifesaving Association
For Distribution to the USLA Executive Committee

Don Rohrer
Vice President

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Mike Beuerlein
Secretary

This letter is written in regard to the action taken by the Board of Directors of the United States Lifesaving Association on May 10, 2003, which suspended Robert McGowan and Michael Beuerlein from the USLA Board of Directors. The sending of this letter has been authorized by unanimous vote of the CSLSA Executive Board.

Robert Moore
Treasurer

The suspension of Messrs. McGowan and Beuerlein showed that CSLSA is not being accorded the respect and dignity due all regions. They have been suspended without any due process or real debate. At the very minimum, the due process procedures were needed to insure fairness and an open and honest debate over the merits of the suspension. The lack of a fair hearing not only prejudiced the rights of the suspended members, but shut off all reasoned debate on the subject issue of CSLSA's promotional contract.

William Richardson
Past President/Advisor

Vincent Lombardi
Recurrent Rep

As a result, the CSLSA Executive Board voted, unanimously, for the CSLSA to interpret the suspension of its two officers, as one affecting the entire Executive Board. In order to cure this situation, CSLSA hereby requests the USLA Board of Directors rescind the suspension action retroactively to May 10, 2003.

Mike Bartlet
Executive Delegate

Chris Graham
Executive Delegate

CSLSA will continue to promote membership in USLA and encourage support of its goals and objectives. However, CSLSA will sanction only limited participation at the national level until the suspensions are rescinded. Furthermore, no individual member of the CSLSA may characterize himself or herself as representing the views or authority of the CSLSA, including USLA Board of Director or USLA Executive Committee voting privileges, without specific action taken by either the CSLSA Executive Board or CSLSA Board of Directors. Any CSLSA Executive Board or CSLSA Board of Directors action or change will be forwarded in writing to the USLA Secretary prior to or at the 2003 Fall USLA Board of Directors meeting.

Robert Williams
Executive Delegate (Alternate)

CSLSA is taking this action because the events of May 10th have left it with no realistic alternative. The suspension of Messrs. McGowan and Beuerlein was wholly unjustified and not in keeping with the professional relationship which should exist between USLA and one of its most active regional bodies.

CSLSA urges USLA to re-evaluate its action of May 10th in light of its implications for the well being of both USLA and CSLSA and their shared mission of lifesaving. CSLSA's desire is, and has always been, to make USLA what it should and can be, a leader in open water lifesaving. If USLA rescinds its action retroactively, CSLSA for its part, will work diligently to rebuild the relationship of professional collegiality which until recently existed between the two organizations.

Yours in Lifesaving,

The California Surf Lifesaving Association
Executive Board