



# California Surf Lifesaving Association

## Southwest Region-United States Lifesaving Association

P0 Box 366 Huntington Beach, California 92648

World Wide Web: [www.cslsa.org](http://www.cslsa.org)

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**Robert McGowan**  
*President*

Since the Spring 2003 CSLSA General Board Meeting at Dana Point, I have been busy with the following projects:

**Don Rohrer**  
*Vice President*

**Mike Beuerlein**  
*Secretary*

**Robert Moore**  
*Treasurer*

**William Richardson**  
*Past President/Advisor*

**Vincent Lombardi**  
*Recurrent Rep*

**Mike Bartlet**  
*Executive Delegate*

**Chris Graham**  
*Executive Delegate*

**Robert Williams**  
*Executive Delegate  
(Alternate)*

1. Completing and distributing the minutes from Spring 2003 CSLSA General Board Meeting.
2. Representing CSLSA at the Spring 2003 USLA meeting in Hawaii.
3. Attending and participating in CSLSA Executive Board Meetings.
4. Completing and distributing the minutes and agendas from CSLSA Executive Board Meetings.
5. Collecting and distributing CSLSA mail.

California lifeguards have long been recognized as international leaders in the profession of lifesaving. Our members were instrumental in the establishment of the USLA. CSLSA Executive Board Members have held many of the USLA's most important elected and appointed positions. For many years, CSLSA Executive Board Members have been responsible for a majority of the USLA's production and workload.

CSLSA members have always shared their innovative ideas and proven techniques to better the USLA. Since the USLA has struggled to acquire and maintain adequate sponsorship to achieve many of its goals, CSLSA has looked for solutions. One of those solutions was to acquire funding at the regional level. In furtherance of this objective, CSLSA entered into a contract with SHP in 2001. This agreement has proven to be very beneficial for our membership.

In April of this year, after the CSLSA/SHP contract was reviewed by an attorney and found to be legally binding, the CSLSA Board of Directors directed the CSLSA Executive Board to go to the Spring USLA Meeting and inform the USLA that CSLSA was bound to honor its agreement with SHP.

Once again, CSLSA offered to share our success with the USLA. USLA not only rejected our offer, but also told CSLSA that it could not honor its contract with SHP. Then to our dismay, based on misinformation, USLA voted to suspend two of our officers. Believe it or not, this was actually a compromise. The original motion during the caucus, was to suspend the entire CSLSA membership.

On August 27<sup>th</sup> the CSLSA Executive Board sent a letter to the USLA Executive Committee, asking the USLA to reinstate our suspended officers.

The letter also stated that "CSLSA will only sanction limited participation at the national level until the suspensions are rescinded". The intent was not to pull out of the USLA, but limit participation until the situation is rectified.

Under this scenario, CSLSA would still be a member of USLA and our agencies would continue to receive the benefits of USLA certification. Our regional participation would be similar to that of the Hawaiian lifeguards with respect to USLA and CSLSA. Individual CSLSA members would still have the opportunity to join USLA and compete.

Obviously, no one wants this to happen. The CSLSA will continue to “work diligently to rebuild our relationship with USLA”. Ultimately, the CSLSA Executive Board will continue to follow the direction of our membership. Our course needs to be charted at this meeting.

In an effort to facilitate communication, I would like to ask that all General Board members complete the sign-in sheet and include their current e-mail address. I would also like to request that all Executive Board Members and all Committee Chairs e-mail their reports to the Secretary at [mbeuerlein@surfcity-hb.org](mailto:mbeuerlein@surfcity-hb.org) . In the case of Committee Chairs, this will include both the pre-committee and post-committee reports.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'mbe', is positioned above the typed name.

Michael A. Beuerlein  
Secretary