



California Surf Lifesaving Association

Southwest Region-United States Lifesaving Association

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CSLSA First Delegate's Report

Robert McGowan
President

As some of you are aware, I was married on October 5. I am currently on my honeymoon and, obviously, unable to attend today's meeting. Over the past two years, I've had the opportunity to work with this Executive Board as a delegate attending monthly executive board meetings and attending all of the USLA meetings. Needless to say, it has been a bumpy ride but very challenging nevertheless.

Don Rohrer
Vice President

Mike Beuerlein
Secretary

Robert Moore
Treasurer

I'm sure our general membership has a lot of questions regarding the current political climate within the USLA and the CSLSA. For many years, I've been on the outside looking in and now I'm on the inside looking out. The message that I want to send today is that I can assure you that your *current* Board Members have an excellent working relationship. This relationship requires trust, honesty and commitment to the CSLSA membership.

William Richardson
Past President/Advisor

Vincent Lombardi
Recurrent Rep

Mike Bartlet
Executive Delegate

Here's how I see it. The CSLSA membership doesn't want to be stuck holding an empty bag of promises from the USLA. The CSLSA Executive Board has been deeply concerned with the USLA's inability to secure sponsorship for the national membership. Because of this, the CSLSA moved to partner with Scott Hubbell Productions. This relationship has proved to be very lucrative for CSLSA. SHP provided our membership with the best product kit ever and our financial footing is stronger than it has been in years! If SHP continues to produce, then the contract will extend. The current Executive Board has unselfishly worked to share this sponsorship opportunity with the USLA, no-strings attached. However, there was a breakdown in communications, stemming from a lack of trust. The USLA simultaneously moved to pursue the SHP contract, and suspend our President and Secretary for signing the CSLSA/SHP contract.

Chris Graham
Executive Delegate

Robert Williams
*Executive Delegate
(Alternate)*

CSLSA President Rob McGowan is our CSLSA spokesperson, not Chris Brewster! When he was a member of the CSLSA Executive Board, Brewster was very vocal about his concerns regarding our contract with SHP. His list of concerns was long, with the most notable concern being the "automatic extension clause" if SHP performs. I have no problem with Brewster's disagreement; however his contractual concerns were **not** left in the confidential discussions within the CSLSA arena. Brewster maintained a steady stream of e-mail communications with regional presidents, including a personal relationship with USLA Legal Advisor Chip More. At one point, Brewster sent a confidential CSLSA e-mail regarding his personal opposition to the SHP contract, and he copied the e-mail to the USLA Legal Advisor. When confronted with this, Brewster brushed it off as a typographical error for Bob Moore, not Chip More. Chip More not only opposed our contract but was very disrespectful to both USLA President Rohrer and Scott Hubbell in several subsequent e-mail communications.

Although Brewster does hold the International Liaison position on the USLA Executive Board, he did not have authorization to release any CSLSA information. After the suspensions of McGowan and Beuerlein, the CSLSA Executive Board met to discuss

the chain of events that led to the suspensions and breakdown in communication and lack of trust. Brewster said on tape that he had previously discussed his contractual concerns with others in the USLA. Considering this fact, the confidential e-mail circulated to the USLA Legal Advisor, and other concerns regarding the lack of trust and disregard to the CSLSA position, I motioned for a "vote of no confidence" for Chris Brewster. Brewster subsequently resigned from his CSLSA post, and stated his intentions to run for USLA President in an attempt to "regain" our trust.

You might be asking, where do we go from here? There is no simple solution. First, the USLA needs to negotiate in good faith with SHP to resolve the marketing issue. This may be out of our control. Second, the USLA needs to re-instate our two suspended members. We might accomplish this by lobbying the regional presidents, arguing the motion was mean-spirited and lacks a timetable for the suspensions. Third, the CSLSA General Membership needs to re-think its own mission and be prepared for an alternative course to lead lifesaving in the future.

As the ALM Editor, I plan on attending the USLA meeting in New Jersey and continue representing the CSLSA as a delegate. However, my loyalty is to the CSLSA first and I will accept the decision of the CSLSA membership if it does not ratify the recommendations of the CSLSA Executive Board. As the Editor of the national magazine, I have not allowed my personal feelings to influence my management of the ALM. I still believe in the mission of the USLA and have confidence that it will re-instate our members. CSLSA has been and is the leader in lifesaving! Let's not give up. We should take our votes to New Jersey in two weeks and lobby behind Vic Maceo, President of the Gulf Coast Region, for USLA President unless something changes between now and then.

As far as dealing with the Brewster issue, the Huntington Beach chapter is deeply concerned. I believe he leaked information, some of which was inaccurate, in order to be a "whistleblower," thus gaining support for his run at National President. It is my belief that Brewster was insubordinate to the CSLSA leadership and membership by voicing his personal opinions contrary to the official direction of the CSLSA Board of Directors, relating to the SHP/CSLSA contract. I don't trust him to conduct CSLSA business. I will leave it to our General Membership to decide his fate for his dereliction of duty to the CSLSA. More importantly, as a CSLSA Executive Board Member, I feel our loyalty should be to the CSLSA membership and our commitment to the CSLSA's mission first, not to political aspirations and personal agendas.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. Bartlett
First Delegate CSLSA