



California Surf Lifesaving Association

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Southwest Region - United States Lifesaving Association

P0 Box 366 - Huntington Beach, California 92648

World Wide Web: www.cslsa.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS October 21, 2004

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Welcome to Santa Barbara, and thanks to Rich Hanna and the Santa Barbara crew for hosting the meeting. We haven't seen a lot of involvement from the Santa Barbara chapter over the past few years; it's good to have you back! Following the very successful Laguna Beach 40th Anniversary meeting, your Executive Board attended the Spring USLA Meeting in San Francisco. We suggested that the USLA may want to carry on the 40th Anniversary theme at the Fall USLA Meeting in Galveston, and they agreed to do so by inviting Bob Burnside to be a speaker at the event. Other highlights of the San Francisco meeting were a couple of very good presentations at the Educational Conference. Dr. Gary Hall, former Olympic swimmer and eye surgeon presented his "EPF" eye protection factor, a rating system for sunglasses; and there was an excellent multi-agency aquatic response drill held on San Francisco Bay. Heroic Acts awards were presented to the four lifeguards that entered the water at Avila Beach to rescue the victim of a shark attack. The USLA Certification Committee granted a provisional extension to Cal State Parks to allow them to be certified while a decision can be reached on appropriate equivalencies for swim tests longer the USLA recommended 500 meters.

Although our membership drive got off to a late start, most chapters didn't receive their shirts and sunscreen until late June or mid July, we achieved pretty good numbers. We have over 1000 adult members in CSLSA, and over 5000 Junior Lifeguard members. Thanks to Vince and Charlotte for helping get the membership incentives distributed, and thanks to Scott Hubbell and our sponsors for providing them. Everyone I spoke to really liked the long-sleeve T-shirts.

Long Beach hosted the CSLSA Regionals on July 23 and 24. It was the largest turnout ever for the lifeguard competition. Joanne Warzoha and her Long Beach staff did an outstanding job of organizing and hosting the event. The awards and T-shirts were exceptional too. Thanks to the CSLSA Executive Board members, and former members who showed up to help run the competition: Bill Richardson, Gordon Gray, Vince Lombardi, Bob Moore, Don Rohrer, Charlotte and Chris Graham, and special thanks to my son Morgan. Jay Butki deserves our gratitude for rehabilitating and installing the buoy line; it was the straightest I've ever seen. Jay and Rob Pelkey are in the process of outfitting and organizing our new competition trailer. Results of the 2004 Regional Championships can be found at www.cslsa.org.

The 2004 USLA Nationals were held in Daytona Beach on August 5-7. They featured the most radical weather and water conditions most of us had ever experienced. It was the first time in over 30 years of attending Nationals that I have seen an event cancelled on account of water conditions. A new record was set for one-day rainfall on one of the days we were there! When all was said and done, I believe everyone in attendance will look back on the 2004 Nationals as one of the most unforgettable of all time. Our region won the Sheridan Byerly trophy for high

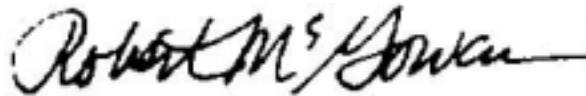
point region, and L.A. County once again captured the large team division, with San Diego and Cal State placing fifth and sixth. L.A. County JG's won the "AA" Swim relay and placed second in the "C" Swim Relay.

Other recent developments in the USLA include the USLA - NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) collaboration, a national public awareness campaign on rip currents, and an agreement between the USLA and the Skin Cancer Foundation which would involve joint efforts to seek funding for skin cancer prevention awareness programs. A "request for proposals from interested and qualified individuals and organizations to provide fundraising and event marketing services to USLA" was released in September with proposals due by October 15, 2004. I have not heard if any proposals were submitted or not. A PWC Training Guidelines Draft was distributed in August with the goal of adopting national PWC standards at the Galveston meeting. Both the RFP and PWC documents can be found on the USLA website on the "Lifeguard Library" page.

Several of the CSLSA committees have been active since our last Board of Directors meeting in Laguna. The Competition Committee has already been mentioned. The Exchange Committee had a successful exchange visit by the New Zealand lifeguards this summer, and our next two candidates to go to New Zealand have been selected by the interview panel. I will let committee chair Chris Graham share the details with you. Heroic Acts chairman Bill Richardson advised me that he received no submissions, and that he regrets being unable to attend this meeting. The Junior Guard Committee remained busy as always with another successful regional and national competition, and the poster contest. Legislation chair Carl Drake reported that AB 1961 died in committee, and also expressed his regrets at being unable to attend this meeting. In addition to the fine work getting the membership kits distributed and keeping track of our numbers and reconciling them with the National, Vince Lombardi has been working on ordering the popular Whirly mugs for next year's membership kits. I heard an issue of Cal Surf News came out recently, but for some reason, I never received my copy. I'm sure Eric Sandy is hard at work on the next issue. Rob Williams produced and distributed the excellent public education CD's to all chapters. At a recent Executive Board meeting Rob expressed an interest in handing off the chairmanship of the CSLSA Public Education Committee, so if anyone has an interest, please let me know. The Website Committee of one has filed a written report that will be distributed. He has been busy keeping cslsa.org up to date and working on improvements.

Here's to a dynamic and fruitful meeting. Thanks for attending.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert McGowan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert McGowan
President