



California Surf Lifesaving Association

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Southwest Region - United States Lifesaving Association

PO Box 366 - Huntington Beach, California 92648

World Wide Web: www.cslsa.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS October 13, 2005

Robert C. McGowan
President

Welcome to the Fall 2005 CSLSA Board of Directors meeting and many thanks to Gordon Gray and the L.A. County Lake Lifeguard Association for hosting. As you may know, this is an election meeting where we select the officers to serve on your Executive Board for the next two years. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the outgoing Executive Board for their hard work over the past two years. I know some of us will be running for re-election, while others have chosen to step down. We will miss those of you who are leaving, and hope that we will at least continue to see you every six months at the Board of Directors meetings.

Vincent N. Lombardi III
Vice President

Michael A. Beuerlein
Secretary

Robert E. Williams
Treasurer

Robert A. Moore
Past President/Advisor

Christopher R. Graham
Recurrent Representative

Don C. Rohrer
1st Executive Delegate

Michael S. Bartlett
2nd Executive Delegate

Charlotte M. Graham
Alt. Executive Delegate

Looking back at the summer of 2005, I don't remember very many sunny days, surf over ankle high, or big crowds. It was pretty much the summer that never was, in fact, probably the worst summer weather-wise in over 15 years. June gloom lasted well into August, and once everybody went back to school, summer finally arrived. By the end of August through Labor Day, the sun decided to come out and summer started. It has continued through September and into October with more sunny days (some with record temperatures) and surf than we experienced the previous three months.

Although this summer was weak on weather and surf, it had plenty of red tide, jellyfish, and stingrays. I heard that Huntington and Newport (I saw Rob Williams talking about it on the news) had over 2,000 jellyfish stings in one day! Now that's about as bad as it gets. I can't recall ever having as many stingray hits as we had this summer. The red tide has come (for the majority of the summer) and gone, but it lingered off and on into October.

Throughout the summer, your Executive Board has been quite busy. We have met monthly, carrying on the business of the region. Since the most recent CSLSA Board of Directors meeting in Seal Beach last April, we attended the USLA National Meeting in Miami in May, helped run the CSLSA Regional Competition in Long Beach in July, and attended and officiated at the USLA Nationals in Virginia Beach in August. Looking ahead, we have the USLA National Board of Directors Meeting, hosted by our region, at Dana Point. I hope some of you are planning to attend. A little farther in the future, our region is hosting the 2006 USLA National Lifeguard Championships, at Huntington Beach next August.

One of the highlights of the Miami USLA meeting was the departure of Hawaii as a member of our region to reform their own region as the "Pacific Islands Region." This move was fully supported by our region, and was approved unanimously by the USLA Board of Directors. It is good to see Hawaii becoming involved again, with autonomy as their own region.

Long Beach hosted the CSLSA Regional Competition, with sponsorship from Scott Hubbell Productions, our regional sponsor coordinator. Without the help of SHP, Inc. we would not be nearly as successful as we are as a region. They provide sponsorship for our membership drives, our kits, and our competitions. We owe a multitude of thanks to SHP, Inc., Joanne Warzoha, and her staff and management at Long Beach City, and the CSLSA Executive Board members that helped run and officiate the competition. Special thanks to Executive Board alumnus Bill Richardson for keeping things moving as the Starter, and to Kyle Daniels, who took the summer off from competing, and did an excellent job of marshalling the competitors in Bob Moore's absence. Thanks again to Jay Butki, Compe-

tition Committee Chair, for his help setting up the course. We had over 160 competitors in the lifeguard events and over 1,000 Junior Lifeguard competitors. You can check out the results of the competition at our website, <http://www.cslsa.org> . Next year's Regionals are somewhat up in the air at this point in time, and will need to be discussed in committee.

The 2005 USLA National Lifeguard Championships were hosted by the Virginia Beach Lifeguard Association on August 11 through 13, 2005. Tom Gill, event organizer, with the help of the Virginia Beach Lifeguard Association, and the Virginia Beach Lifesaving Service, did an outstanding job of hosting the Nationals. *Speedo* was the presenting sponsor, with the help of many others, including Ingram, and the Virginia Aquarium. Los Angeles County took top "A" Team honors, besting Monmouth County by almost 200 points. San Diego finished seventh in the "A" Division and Cal State took ninth. Hawaii took fourth in the small teams division.

We are hosting the USLA National Board of Directors Meeting on November 3rd through 5th at the Laguna Cliffs Marriott in Dana Point. It promises to be an outstanding meeting. Rob Williams of Newport Beach, and our CSLSA Treasurer, deserves all the credit as the event organizer. I encourage all CSLSA members to attend this meeting, in full, or in part, to whatever extent you are able. It will give you an insight into the workings of the USLA at the national level, and you'll be treated to an outstanding educational experience as well. For full details and registration information, please check the website at <http://www.cslsa.org/events> .The educational conference on Friday includes presentations by *Surflife* about surf generation and premium membership for USLA members, Hoag Hospital – Project Wipeout/Cervical Injuries, and Nick Lerma of San Diego Lifeguard Service, Urban Search and Rescue Team talking about deployment of lifeguards in a disaster situation, specifically Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, 2005. The afternoon on Friday features an interactive presentation of the California State Park system's public education program, including a live video interface with a scuba diver, and a tour of the newly refurbished beach cottages at Crystal Cove. The evening will conclude with the raising of the hospitality flag with beverages and hors d'oeuvres at sunset. Additionally, this is an election meeting, and you will be able to experience the politics of how your national USLA representatives are chosen.

Looking ahead to next summer, our region is hosting the 2006 USLA National Lifeguard Championships. The dates are August 10, 11, and 12 at Huntington State Beach. An organizing committee has been established and we are meeting on a monthly basis for now. Current members of the committee are Gus Avila, Scott Hubbell, Jay Butki, Herb White, Kip Kennedy, and Rob McGowan. We are looking for additional members. If you are interested and have talents that you can lend to making the 2006 USLA Nationals a huge success, we are looking for you to join us. We will be meeting to discuss strategy and solicit additional volunteers today.

A couple of highlights of the summer include Huntington City moving into their new headquarters and Junior Lifeguard / Training facility. They are truly state of the art facilities and something to be very proud of. If you haven't checked them out, you really should. And in my own backyard, we are preparing to move into our brand new Southern Section Lifeguard Headquarters (L.A. County) at the Hermosa Beach Pier. After working in a double-wide trailer, with no view for the past year or so, being hit by lightning twice, having all communications knocked out by previously mentioned lightning, and everything else, I invite all of you to the dedication of our new pier entrance and Lifeguard Headquarters in Hermosa Beach. Tentative date of the dedication is Saturday, November 19, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. Hope to see you there. Until then, watch the water and keep it safe. Here's to a fun and productive meeting.

Yours in Lifesaving,
Robert McGowan
President