



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

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VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OCTOBER 12, 2006

Welcome to the Fall 2006 CSLSA Board of Directors Meeting, Morro Bay, and thank you to Herb White and the California State Lifeguard Association for hosting this event.

Since we last met at Huntington Beach, I have been very busy with the business of the CSLSA. Following our Regional meeting, I attended the USLA Board of Directors meeting in Annapolis, Maryland. It was a very successful meeting, with the granting of USLA Life membership to our president and the medal of valor to our executive delegate, Mike Bartlett. In addition, the revised USLA bylaws, which were worked on so thoroughly by members of your Executive Committee last winter, were adopted.

Summer seemed to race by this year, with exceptionally warm weather and warm water keeping lifeguards throughout our region very busy. The Junior Lifeguard Regional Championships, hosted by Santa Barbara on July 21st, were very well attended and extremely well-run. Congratulations to the Santa Barbara lifeguards! On Saturday, August 5th, 130 lifeguards attended the CSLSA Regional Lifeguard Championships in Redondo Beach. I would like to thank Gordon Gray for his help with the registration process of all the competitors, as well as all the members of the Executive Committee who helped run the event. Special thanks also go to Bill Richardson, Vince Lombardi, Jay Butki, Scott Diederich, and Dick Douglas for their efforts to make our Regionals a success, and to the LA County Lifeguards for hosting the event.

The 2006 USLA Lifeguard National Championships, hosted by Huntington State from August 10th to 12th, were also a rousing success. An unbelievable amount of work went into hosting this event, and it was a skeleton crew of volunteers led by Gus Avila, Herb White, and Craig Lumb who accomplished the feat. Congratulations and thanks to them for successfully bringing the Lifeguard Nationals back to the west coast! Special thanks as well to Scott Hubbell and SHP, Inc. for his tremendous efforts this past year in securing sponsorship for our Lifeguard Regionals and Nationals, and for his continued support of our CSLSA membership kits.

By far, the area I have spent the most time working on over the past six months is our CSLSA membership. Our membership drive for 2006 is now just about completed. Although I am still waiting to get the membership list from a couple of chapters, we are over 1200 members for the first time since 2002! I will have more information about the 2006 membership in my committee report, and I thank all of you for your efforts to get your lifeguards signed up in our Association.

Finally, in August I was approached by San Diego lifeguard and CSLSA member Jim Birdsell for support of an event he was organizing. After spending time in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, Jim wanted to do more for the children affected by the devastating

storm. He established "Lifeguards for Louisiana", a fundraising event in which he and 7 friends, 5 of whom are CSLSA lifeguards, would complete a 50 mile, multi-discipline relay to raise money for the Kids Around the World charity. This organization endeavors to build playgrounds throughout the world in areas that have been significantly affected by natural disasters. Jim asked if the CSLSA would support his efforts, and the Executive Board, with the support of the Public Education Chair and the Junior Lifeguard Chair, voted to donate \$1000 to his fundraising effort for this worthwhile cause. On Saturday, July 22nd, Jim and his crew took off from Dana Point Harbor, and paddled and rowed their way to _____. We are looking forward to an interesting article about the event in our next *Cal Surf News* as well as an update on the playground that is scheduled to be built in February.

In conclusion, I am looking forward to a successful and productive meeting here in Morro Bay, and I congratulate everyone on the successful year we have had thus far. May we continue to move forward and always strive to be the most outstanding organization we can be.

Yours in lifesaving,

Charlotte Graham
Vice President