



# 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](http://www.cslsa.org)

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Robert C. McGowan  
*President*

October 11 - 12, 2007

Charlotte M. Graham  
*Vice President*

## Past President/Advisor

By Robert A. Moore

Michael A. Beuerlein  
*Secretary*

Robert E. Williams  
*Treasurer*

Another chapter has closed in the CSLSA. Don Rohrer resigned from the Second Delegate position at our last Executive Board meeting. He made it very clear that he was going to open a position up on the Executive Board for some new blood. Both he and I suggested six years ago that we were stepping down to open up the Board to some new people. And each time an election took place there were at least two new members, just a little under a quarter of the Board so we were retained. Over the years there has been little movement on the Board. Two new members each election has been healthy the past three elections. It has allowed consistency and it has kept our future bright. Don stated that he was resigning prior to the Board of Directors meeting so there would leave no opportunity for another two year term.

Robert A. Moore  
*Past President/Advisor*

Christopher R. Graham  
*First Executive Delegate*

*Second Executive Delegate*

Michael S. Bartlett  
*Third Executive Delegate*

Alex K. Peabody  
*Fourth Executive Delegate*

What Don did was remarkable. He enjoys this organization and was one of the founding members. After a period of time away he came back to serve on the CSLSA Executive Board. He also took on the responsibility of the USLA Presidency for two terms. His belief in this organization is so strong that he felt that action speaks louder than words. He would step aside to guarantee an opportunity for someone new on the Board. He also stated that if there were special projects that he could be of assistance he would do so gladly. We didn't wait; we called upon him to review the USLA competition rules in a small sub-committee where he spent eight straight hours on the project. The CSLSA will miss Don's expertise and his service to the association, but his commitment to lifesaving remains strong! So if I may, I want to thank Don for his leadership, guidance, patience, and unselfish commitment to the cause of the CSLSA, USLA, and lifesaving in general. It is important to understand the history of this organization and the few people who have made it what it is today. Don, you are one of the special people of this organization. Thank you. We could not have done it without you.

Another Executive Board member is stepping down who has contributed much to the cause of our membership is Chris Graham. If you remember, Chris stepped down at the last election to focus more on work and the National. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we had to ask Chris to fill an unexpected vacancy of his previous position. Chris reluctantly stepped forward and gave up more of his time. He was extremely active on the Exchange Committee and forwarding agency and chapter information to me for posting on the website. We will miss Chris' expertise and his commitment keeping the information flowing. Thank you Chris.

As an official at our regionals, I was proud our athletes. We implemented the new USLA competition event rules and everyone came together in the spirit of cooperation and performed with style. If a competitor missed a buoy, they would at the cost of losing places, go back and round the buoy without being told. It was all new us and we were learning together. I can remember when competitors weren't so 'honest'. Times have change for the better.

As an official at our nationals, I am surprised that everyone didn't expire. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina was 115 – 119 degrees with the heat index. Most everyone continued with the same spirit as at our regionals. The national competition chairman asked me if we in our region would take a look at the USLA rules like was done for the USLA Bylaws and the USLA Policies and Procedures. With the new event rules, the rest of the document was out of date and needed updated. The intent is that we would produce a document and get approval from our Board of Directors via the competition committee and take it back to the national meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. That document would be the working document in a small sub-committee with a representative from most regions coming to a conclusion for presentation to the National Board of Directors and then implementation. Jay Butki, Rob McGowan, Bill Richardson, Don Rohrer, and myself spent eight hours working on the proposal for our regional meeting. Thanks to Jay's resource materials, Don and Rob's expertise, and Bill Richardson's organizational and documentation skills, we produced what we believe is the next step in the USLA competition rules process.

Over the past two years I have observed the current Executive Board. I have given my advice, attended meetings, and participated in all activities. I remain committed to this organization and find that I continue to have the same enthusiasm. Because I am passionate about both the USLA and the CSLSA, I would like to see the same in others who want to serve on the Executive Board. It is a major commitment to serve on the Executive Board and I am sure there are others out there who would love to take a crack at it. I do caution though that this Executive Board is not about ego. If you want to hold a position just to have a title, please reconsider. The CSLSA needs what is best for the organization, not what looks best on your resume.

I would like to close by saying that it has been a privilege to serve with a great bunch of men and women these last two years. I have given it my best for the CSLSA and the USLA. It has been an honor to represent our membership and I have done what I believed to be in their best interest. I have not participated for personal gain nor would I have remained if that were the case. As a City Manager once said at a luncheon I attended, "Some people are in it for the public and some are in it for themselves." I would like to believe I was in it for the former and not the latter. I will let you decide.

Yours in Lifesaving,