



California Surf Lifesaving Association

B

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 16, 2008

Robert C. McGowan
President

Charlotte M. Graham
Vice President

Michael A. Beuerlein
Secretary

Robert E. Williams
Treasurer

Robert A. Moore
Past President/Advisor

Jon P. Mitchell
First Executive Delegate

William J. Richardson
Second Executive Delegate

Mareen T. Boyer
Third Executive Delegate

Alex K. Peabody
Fourth Executive Delegate

Welcome to La Jolla and thank you very much to Mike Silvestri for his hard work in organizing this meeting and getting us the great deals on lodging that he has. Yet another summer has come and gone, and although I don't think it was quite as record breaking as the summer of 2007, the summer of 2008 was a good one for most of us in the CSLSA.

The City of Huntington Beach had another year of *Ocean Force* filmed on their shores that I hope proves to be as good as last year. They also negotiated a deal with Toyota to outfit them with a brand new fleet of vehicles. The State Parks Lifeguards managed to avoid the drastic budget cuts proposed by the governor and were able to adequately staff their beaches. Their proposal to fund their operation through a ten dollar fee for each registered vehicle in California in return for free day use at State Parks, called the *State Park Access Pass* was supported by the CSLSA, but unfortunately did not make it out of the legislature into the budget in this era of no new taxes. Los Angeles County became the first *green* government lifeguard service when they entered into a deal with the Ford Motor Company to supply them with a fleet of Ford Eclipse hybrid vehicles. So we are moving forward in many ways.

For the first time in several years we were able to hold the Junior Lifeguard and Lifeguard Regionals on back-to-back days at the same venue. Thanks to Seal Beach and Joe Bailey and his staff, particularly Lori Walton, Mike Westmoreland, and Chris Pierce for all of their hard work in making this possible. The good news is that we are going back to Seal Beach next year. It was a great venue and we had one of the best turnouts for the Lifeguard Regionals in recent years. I would be remiss if I didn't thank Reenie Boyer, Junior Guard Chair, for her efforts on behalf of the JG's. Charlotte Graham, your Vice President, not only worked the JG day, but was also there for the Lifeguard competition and was in charge of registration, not an easy task. The competition would not have been possible without the yeoman efforts of Competition Chair Jay Butki, who not only built and maintained the competition courses, but was also instrumental in their installation, and he even found time to compete in a couple of the races. Other members of your Executive Board that helped officiate the event were Mike Beuerlein, Bob Moore, and Bill Richardson. I helped by being the announcer and typing up the results. Other volunteers that helped out were Gordon Gray, Mike Silvestri, Donna Richardson, Robert Torres, Eric Ching and Morgan McGowan. I cannot stress enough what a labor-intensive effort running a successful regional competition is, and we welcome all the help we can get. Please think about stepping up to help next year.

LACOLA and the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Lifeguard Division hosted the 2008 USLA Nationals at the Manhattan Beach Pier. Once again major kudos are due to Charlotte Graham and Jay Butki as event organizers. Comments I heard included "best ever" and "great venue." All and all, I think it was one of the best Nationals I have attended. We actually had three days in a row of morning to night sunshine, enough surf to make things interesting, and a good turnout in spite of the challenging economic conditions and the high cost of travel. As is the case with most of our events, none of this would have come to fruition without the efforts of Scott Hubbell and his company that provide a majority of the sponsorship for not only our events, but our membership kits as well. Thanks again Scott.

I'm not sure how he finds the time, or the time off, but in addition to the already mentioned events, Jay Butki organized, coached and managed teams that competed in the "Waterman Challenge at Waikiki Beach" where the California team placed first, and the "Sanyo Bussan Challenge" where the US team finished third, our first podium finish in an international competition in quite some time! Way to go Jay. Jay was also the manager, coach, and organizer of the California team that competed against the Victorians in the Wieland Shield, contested in Hermosa and Torrance Beach in early August.

The 2009 USLA Nationals are looking like they will be in Fort Lauderdale and LACOLA is exploring the possibility of hosting again in 2010.

Our next USLA National Meeting is next month in Cocoa Beach, Florida and if there is anything you want us to take back there, now is the time to let us know. Next spring we are hosting the national meeting at Asilomar Conference Center in Monterey. Alex Peabody has been working on this meeting for the better part of the last year, and it should be a good one. If you ever wanted to see what goes on at a national meeting this would be a good opportunity. The dates of the Asilomar meeting are April 23 – 25, 2009.

There are a couple of issues that we need to address at this meeting that may be somewhat controversial. They include the Job Titles Committee and the USOC / USLA affiliation. It is my hope that we can all hear all sides of the issues and arrive at a position on these issues that is acceptable to all concerned and that is in the best interests of the CSLSA, the USLA and all of our members. Here's to a productive and harmonious meeting.

Yours in Lifesaving,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert McGowan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Robert McGowan
President