



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

October 16-17, 2008

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By Robert A. Moore

As a member of the Executive Board, I participated in the running of the Lifeguard Regionals in Seal Beach. This is something that has been asked of all Executive Board members over the past years to guarantee its success. We could have used a few more 'officials', but somehow we pulled off a successful competition. Again thanks to Seal Beach for hosting and a wonderful venue. Also thanks to Robert Torres, Eric Ching, Mike Silvestri, Morgan McGowan, Donna Richardson, and Gordon Gray for helping this year. I believe it was a record turnout of competitors, if not, it was close to that amount. I did not attend the JG event, but heard it was successful thanks to the hard work of Reenie Boyer and Mike Ike.

This, in my opinion, was the best Nationals – ever! Thanks to the hard work of Charlotte Graham, Jay Butki, the host Los Angeles County, great conditions, and perfect weather, it couldn't have been a more rewarding experience. To cap it off, the sunset after the closing awards presentation/dinner summarized the experience. Unfortunately the lifeguards from Ft. Lauderdale said the weather would not be so pleasant next year. Expect high humidity.

I would also like to comment on the competitors in both the Regionals and Nationals. The sportsmanship and camaraderie was awesome. Most competitors now know the rules and it is easier to move the events along. Even when equipment failures occur, they were 'flexible' and non-argumentative which was a refreshing change from years past. It was a pleasure to be an official this year for the benefit of our members. That is not something I would have guessed when I started officiating in the 1980's. Good job competitors!

We have been told that our application for our 501(c)(3) status would be submitted next week. It has been a long and winding road, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. For those who aren't aware, it is something that we once had, but passed along to the USLA for the betterment of lifesaving. It has been frustrating to say the least, but it is time to be optimistic. We will have it again and when we do, we need to change our Policies and Procedures to reflect that change. Currently it reads:

The California Surf Lifesaving Association was incorporated in the state of California as a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3). The organization's status and tax identification number was passed along to the United States Lifesaving Association during reorganization. The California Surf Lifesaving Association has applied for a new non-profit under Section 501(c)(3).

There are a few issues that the Executive Board has reviewed and discussed at length since the last Board of Directors meeting. Some of the issues are on the agenda under old business. We need to clarify and keep personalities out of the mix. Often times things are not what they appear. Since its inception in 1964 a vision was incorporated in the State of California as the National Surf Lifesaving Association. Thanks to many contentious meetings and hard work, different agencies came together to try to enhance the profession and educate the public on the hazards of the ocean. Their wisdom to include the local lakes at that time only seemed logical. I am the last active Executive Board member who cast a vote to change the name and focus of our organization in Santa Cruz in 1979. It took years, but the decision was to broaden our goal to include both open water and the rest of the country. This was the impetus for passing our 501(c)(3) to the newly formed United States Lifesaving Association. Our region became the Western United States Lifesaving Association for a few years and then we changed our name to the California Surf Lifesaving Association in hopes of giving us an identity for fund raising. It has been a rough road, but I believe a noble one. The purpose and function of this organization was revisited at length in re-writing our Bylaws both on the National and Regional level. This has taken years and we continue to strive to spread the word of public safety in an open water environment and raise the standards in lifesaving. So in our discussions at this meeting, please understand that we have been through many things over this amazing journey. Things are always up for discussion. Sometimes issues do not go your way and sometimes they do. Just remember, at the end of the day we must put our differences aside and move forward for the greater good. If not, the visionaries in the 1960's would never have started what we believe to be a representation of a common goal of saving lives through the profession and education. Also remember that change is long and hard, i.e. re-acquiring our 501(c)(3). So if you are disappointed, don't give up. Keep volunteering and continue to try and make this organization the best it can be.

I continue to give advice when asked and volunteer advice when not asked. I hope I have continued to be worthy of this and the national organization. I have been a member since 1967 and attending meetings since 1974. This past National Spring meeting in Hawaii was the first National meeting I have missed in 34 years. I have seen many things over the years and still optimistic as to our future.

On a personal note, I am much appreciative of all of the support my wife and I have received over the past few months. It has been a difficult time for our family, but we are on the mend and looking forward to a positive future. I have dedicated my life to lifesaving in many forms, but I had a reminder this year, family comes first!

Thanks to the California State Lifeguard Association for hosting our meeting this Fall. I look forward to good fellowship and positive results at this meeting.