



California Surf Lifesaving Association

TO: CSLSA Board of Directors
FROM: Bill Richardson, Committee Chair
DATE: October 16, 2008
SUBJECT: **Special Awards & Presentations Committee Report**

The following submissions were taken to the USLA meeting in Kauai this past May, were discussed and approved for national awards. The presentations have been prepared and are available for presentation at this meeting.

Invitations were sent to all recipients. If they are unable to attend, their awards will be given to the Chapters who submitted them to make arrangements for presentation at a later date.

Submission by Jim Turner – Newport Beach

Proposed Recipients: Summer Watson and Amy Dochiro

Both are non-lifeguard surfing instructors in Newport Beach with no formal lifeguard training.

On Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at approximately 11:15 AM, a 9 year-old male and 10 year-old female (brother and sister) from San Bernardino were caught in a rip next to the 28th Street jetty. Both had been pulled into deeper water and were unable to stay afloat and were screaming for help.

Watson and Dochiro were teaching a surfing class to the left of the jetty when the victims drifted through the surf lesson area and then into the rip current. The instructors saw that the pair was in trouble. Watson responded followed shortly thereafter by Dochiro.

Upon Watson's arrival the children grabbed onto and clung to Watson forcing her under water. When Dochiro arrived and took control of one of the victims. Both girls attempted to utilize the victim's small bodyboard, which was washed away by the surf.

The instructors continually had to pull the victims to the surface, causing them to submerge. Just when the girls were attempting to get a surfer some distance away to help them, Newport Beach Lifeguards arrived on scene and completed the rescue.

Lifeguards Moore and Leeper credited Watson and Dochiro with risking their lives to save the two siblings.

Submission by Eric Abma – California State Lifeguards

Proposed recipient: Moses Cuprill, Michael Barrett and Raymond Johnson

All three are non-lifeguards with no formal lifeguard training.

On Sunday, March 9, 2008, Cynthia Schmidt was swept into the ocean while attempting to help her young nephew out of the shore break. Schmidt was fully clothed and was quickly overcome by the powerful surf and currents.

Johnson observed Schmidt floating face down in the water and responded to assist her. At the time the water temp was 53° with a pounding 4-6 foot shore break. Johnson responded without benefit of a wetsuit or any rescue gear.

Both Cuprill and Barrett responded to assist Johnson who was struggling to maintain the unconscious Schmidt on the surface while trying to return her to the beach.

As Lifeguard Sturm was arriving on scene he observed the three surfers making a “heroic” effort at controlling the victim and soon returned her to shore.

Sturm commenced CPR until relieved by Paramedics. Schmidt was transported to the hospital where she fully recovered.

I have received only one submission for an Award of Merit, from Oceano Dunes SVRA. We will discuss and act on this submission at this meeting.

Finally, the Committee has remained well under budget for 2008 and will ask that the appropriation for 2009 be reduced, to \$400, which should cover all of our expenses for 2009 even with some projected increase in activity for other presentations outside of Heroic Acts.