



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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS October 15, 2009

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Welcome back to San Diego for the second fall meeting in a row and thank you very much to Jeff Hatfield and the newly revived San Diego Chapter for the hard work put into organizing this meeting. Another summer has come and gone, and with the exception of a few tragic events, the summer of 2009 was a good one for most of us in the CSLSA. We will be electing officers to serve the CSLSA as members of the Executive Board for the 2010 – 2011 term at this meeting. If you have ever thought about becoming more involved in your association, now may be the time.

The Regionals at Seal Beach went even better than last year if that's possible. We enjoyed nice weather and some pretty good surf. Thanks again to Seal Beach Chief Joe Bailey and his staff, particularly Lori Walton, Mike Westmoreland, and Chris Pierce for all of their hard work in making this possible. We had an excellent turnout of 164 competitors for the lifeguard competition. Thanks to Reenie Boyer, Junior Guard Chair, and her sidekick Jon Mitchell for their efforts on behalf of the JG's. Charlotte Graham, your Vice President, was again in charge of the registration process. The competition would not have been possible without the efforts of Competition Chair Jay Butki, who not only built and maintains the competition courses, but was also instrumental in their installation, and he even found time to compete in a couple of the races. Jay took over my job of typing up the results and came to the conclusion that there must be a better way, so we may be using the Interfuse system used at Nationals for Regionals next year. Other members of your Executive Board that helped make Regionals happen were Bob Moore, Bill Richardson, and yours truly. We owe a debt of gratitude to all of the volunteers that helped out including Gordon Gray, Sandy Moore, Erin O'Donnell, Rob Patterson, Jan and Eldin Onsgard, and Morgan McGowan. As is always the case, the CSLSA Regional Championships would not be possible without the fund raising efforts of SHP and the sponsors Scott brings us, thanks again. 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. Speaking of next year, the location for next year's championships is still somewhat up in the air. Hopefully it can be resolved at today's Competition Committee meeting.

I did not attend the USLA Nationals in Fort Lauderdale this year, but I heard that it went fairly well, but did have some issues. I believe we again need to re-examine the entire Nationals program, from locations to funding to officiating. We intend to start this process at the next USLA National Meeting.

I'm still not sure how he finds the time, or the time off, but on top of what he does for the CSLSA, Jay Butki organized, coached and managed the USA team that competed in the "Sanyo Bussan Challenge" where the team finished second behind Australia, our best finish in an international competition in a long time! In addition to that, Jay just returned from competing in the World Masters Games at Manly Beach, Australia. Next up for the jet setting Jay is the 21st Wieland Shield, January 6 through 18, 2010 in Victoria, Australia and a possible trip to Alexandria, Egypt for Rescue 2010 in October.

The 2010 USLA Nationals are on the calendar for August 5 through 7 at Huntington State Beach, and rumor has it that LACOLA is exploring the possibility of hosting again in 2012.

Thanks to the first president of this organization, Bob Burnside, we have a beautiful new perpetual trophy to be presented to the agency of the CSLSA Outstanding Junior Lifeguard of the Year. It is in memory of his son Bobby and will be known as "The Bobby Burnside Memorial Shield." The first recipient of the award will be selected during today's Junior Lifeguard Committee meeting. A huge thank you to Bob for the creation and donation of this outstanding award.

The CSLSA received two unexpected contributions recently, one from Dr. Brandt Lapschies, a surgeon in Hawaii and former Huntington City Lifeguard, and the other from Api Weinert of USOS and Laguna Beach. Thank you very much to these gentlemen for their generosity.

Our next USLA National Meeting is next month in Williamsburg, Virginia and if there is anything you want us to take back there, now is the time to let us know. It is an election meeting where the USLA Executive Board for the next two years will be determined, and the USOC / USLA affiliation is an unresolved issue that is still on the table at the USLA level. Your Executive Board welcomes your input on these or any other issues.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your support over the last nine or so years that I have been your president. I would also like to thank all of the members of the Executive Boards who have served with me over the years. I will not be running for re-election, but do hope to continue serving the CSLSA as Past President/Advisor for at least the next couple of years. Here's to a productive and enjoyable meeting.

Yours in Lifesaving,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert McGowan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Robert McGowan
President