



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

Robert C. McGowan
President

October 15-16, 2009

Charlotte M. Graham
Vice President

Past President/Advisor

By Robert A. Moore

Michael A. Beuerlein
Secretary

Robert E. Williams
Treasurer

As my time in this position winds down, I thought I would take a moment and reflect on a few things.

Robert A. Moore
Past President/Advisor

I started as a member of the NSLSA in 1967 as a recurrent lifeguard. I became involved in my local chapter and was working as the host with others for the Spring 1974 NSLSA meeting. I was in awe of the members of the organization from the different chapters. I was a delegate representing my chapter at that meeting and have been one since. After attending the bi-annual meetings, the NSLSA came to a crossroad in Santa Cruz in 1979. I am the last active member who voted for the name change and the concept of becoming truly national. The USLA was born. I was elected to the regional Executive Board as a new permanent lifeguard. I served with Chiefs, Captains, Lieutenants, and Sergeants. Again I was intimidated by the 'legends' of that time in lifesaving, but was welcomed with open arms. The Executive Board members were helpful and supportive. In 1981, I ran again for delegate and was elected. During that term, our President, Tim Dorsey, had to resign to deal with his city politics. As Tim would say, "It's a war zone!" Bruce Baird, who was Vice President, stepped up to become President to finish the term. I was elevated to Vice President. In 1983, Bruce said he was not going to run for President and he and others suggested I run. No one who was not an officer in their agency had ever run for President. I was the first permanent lifeguard to be elected President. After serving five terms, I stepped down as President. Since then I have been Past President/Advisor, Treasurer, and Past President/Advisor again for multiple terms each. I have served on committees and chaired committees. I have been the National Coach on international exchanges. I have served as a delegate to the World Lifesaving and have traveled internationally. At the end of this term, I will have served on the regional Executive Board for thirty years. I have been a delegate to the National organization for thirty-five years. Looking back, I have served longer than anyone else in the organization. That's a Regional meeting, Regional competition, National meeting, National competition, Executive Board meeting, etc. on the average of once a month for over thirty years. I only bring this up to let you know that it has been a labor of love for me personally.

Jon P. Mitchell
First Executive Delegate

William J. Richardson
Second Executive Delegate

Mareen T. Boyer
Third Executive Delegate

Alex K. Peabody
Fourth Executive Delegate

I have seen the associations grow and the people come and go. There has been a thread throughout my experience that remains consistent. Everyone who serves and attends the regional and national meetings believes in lifesaving. We may not always agree, but the passion is there to protect the public and advance the profession of lifesaving.

Over the years, I have enjoyed the chemistry of the different regional Executive Boards and this one is no exception. The tireless work your President, Rob McGowan, has done on the regions behalf had been nothing short of spectacular. He is leaving large shoes to fill. He will make a great Past President/Advisor for the incoming President. The new President would be wise to listen to Rob carefully and consider his contributions. The Vice President, Charlotte Graham is a hard worker. She is one who can multi-task. With her work on Membership alone is enough for anyone. She knows what she wants and goes for it. I like that in a person. The Secretary, Mike Beuerlein, has had the toughest job in the organization. He is responsible for taking and distributing the minutes. With that comes the organization of how we do business. He has been responsible for keeping things moving and on task and I must say a job well done. Our Treasurer, Rob Williams, has taken the treasury to new levels. He stepped up when the National Treasurer passed away which has benefited our organization. We now have a budget! That is so important to have a plan instead of reporting income and expenses. Rob you have been what the Treasury needed. Our First Executive Delegate, Jon Mitchell, had large shoes to fill when Chris Graham left the position. Jon has taken the Exchange Program to new levels. He has overcome many personal obstacles and still maintained a great work ethic. He has kept the flow of information moving to help recurrences and the postings on the website. The New Zealand Exchange was awesome. Thanks Jon. The Second Executive Delegate, Bill Richardson, is a workhorse for this organization. He has done it all and is willing to continue to step up to the plate on your behalf. Bill is the one who created the template for the minutes that you see today on the regional and national level. He continues to work on the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures on both the regional and national level. Bill was also around when the organization was formed in 1964 and is a past USLA President. The Third Executive Delegate, Reenie Boyer, has been a wonderful addition to our Executive Board. As the newest Life Member for both the region and the national, her expertise and hard work on behalf of the Junior Lifeguards has been second to none! The Fourth Executive Delegate, Alex Peabody, has been tested professionally the most on the Executive Board. His agency has cut and they have been furloughed a couple of days a month. Alex has contributed to the board more 'afar' than in person. We understand the limitations of geography and work commitments, but when we needed a report, coordination for the meeting at Asilomar, or another prospective Alex worked hard to make it happen. Kudos Alex. So you see, I truly enjoyed working with this Executive Board. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment to you, to the national, and most importantly to lifesaving. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve with them and for you.

I will defer my future to the Board of Directors. I would be honored to serve as the Second Executive Delegate if you feel I can continue to contribute. Or if you believe that someone else should be on the Executive Board, I will gladly step aside in the best interest of the organization. I believe in the CSLSA and the USLA and am committed to its success whether serving or observing.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone over my thirty-five years serving for the opportunity to do what I love, working on behalf of lifesaving. It has been passion of mine and you allowed me to live it!

Yours in Lifesaving,

Bob