



Exchange Programs

CALIFORNIA SURF LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION 2009-2010 California/Auckland Exchange

Board of Director's Fall Meeting
San Diego, CA
October 15th & 16th, 2009

Exchange Committee Report

Prepared by Jon Mitchell
Exchange Chair

Good Morning once again and thanks for coming!

Personally, this has been one of the most difficult summers I have ever had, but it also has been one of the most rewarding. I have a new baby boy named Curran, I have a new house in HB, my wife had a successful brain surgery to remove a tumor, and I survived a really big kidney stone all in a one month period. If you need a diet program, I have the recipe.

In regards to the exchange, most of you know that this chair position takes an incredible amount of time. Leading up to our busiest part of the year, I have to communicate with my contacts in New Zealand to see when the Kiwi's will arrive. Once I receive that information, I contact our members to see if they are interested in hosting the NZ Guards while they are on the exchange. Next we make the schedule trying to hit interested agencies, competition sites and many fun activities. This year we only had 4 ½ weeks to plan their itinerary due to other obligations. We made it work! After the NZ's return home, applications arrive at the end of August to select our two delegates from the CSLSA. I coordinate with each applicant a good time to interview and set the interview date. Next we need an impartial panel to make the selections. Interviews take several hours depending on the number of candidates and then each applicant receives a call from me to go over their interview. Finally, the selection is made and two California guards prepare to go to NZ. I then help the two delegates with the process of getting to NZ and how to network for sponsorship. CA guards depart end of December and the cycle starts all over again!

I just want to say thanks once again to all that assisted on the exchange this summer. Faron and Claire had a great time on the exchange and wrote a really nice letter thanking all of you. If you hosted, I sent you a copy of the letter. Special thanks to Imperial Beach, Del Mar, Laguna Beach, Newport Beach, CSP



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Huntington Beach, Huntington Beach City, Seal Beach, LA County and Santa Barbara for making the exchange work.

Interviews for this year's exchange were conducted on October 1st, 2009 and a prestigious panel consisting of an ex-Exchange Chair and Delegate along with two USLA Life Members scrutinized the applicants every move. Chris Graham, Bill Richardson and Don Rohrer sat on the panel and I appreciated their help. Thanks

I would formally like to announce the two lifeguards who have been chosen to represent the CSLSA in New Zealand for the 2009/2010 CA/ NZ Lifeguard Exchange. The Delegates are Derek Doler from Ventura County and Nicholas Sullivan from Huntington Beach City. Both Delegates had great interviews and the scoring was very, very close.

Derek and Nick come on up.

The Seal Beach Lifeguard Association is here to present both Exchange Lifeguards with a \$250.00 check from the A.J. Summers Memorial Exchange Scholarship (Joe Bailey) and the CSLSA will present each guard with a check for \$500.00.

This Lifeguard Exchange is not only about camaraderie, but more about professionalism and raising the standards of Lifesaving around the world. Our two Delegates will be in New Zealand for two months visiting Surf Lifesaving Clubs in the Northern region. They will share techniques and methodologies on drowning prevention and train in some of the roughest conditions in the world. This journey will change the direction of your life as it has for all past recipients.

As the CSLSA Committee Chair for the Exchange, I highly recommend Derek Doler and Nicholas Sullivan to represent the California Surf Lifesaving Association on the California / New Zealand Lifeguard Exchange for the 2009/2010 endless summer. Good Luck and Safe Traveling! All members will be looking forward to your presentation at the 2010 Spring Meeting.

In committee I will be discussing the trip with the Delegates and what their responsibilities are to this board.

Thanks for you time and support,

Jon Mitchell

CSLSA Exchange Chair