



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

April 14, 2005

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2nd Executive Delegate

Charlotte M. Graham
Alt. Executive Delegate

Welcome to the Spring 2005 CSLSA Board of Directors meeting and many thanks to Ross Pounds and the Seal Beach Lifeguard Association for hosting this meeting. I would like to congratulate Bob Moore on his retirement after almost 40 years in the lifeguarding profession. Bob retired from his position as Section Chief with L.A. County on March 31. He wrote a poignant letter on his last day at work, that perhaps he will share with us. It spoke about how far we have come in the last forty years, how much things have changed, yet how much they have stayed the same. My oldest son just completed training with Huntington City and it caused me to reflect on my days as a lifeguard there in the late 60's, and how much things have changed, yet how much they are still the same. It got me to thinking; we need to spend more time at these meetings comparing notes. We have the Training Committee spending time on occupational analyses, instructional syllabuses, and other important aspects of our careers, but we have gotten away from sharing protocols and policies that perhaps we could learn from one another by sharing. At one of our Executive Board meetings someone came up with the idea of each Chapter / Agency bringing a unit to a future meeting so we could see how others equip their vehicles. We differ in our use of paddleboards, PWC's, ATV's, cans vs. buoys vs. tubes, etc. I think we could all learn a lot through this process.

Your Executive Board has been carrying on the business of the CSLSA since the Fall Meeting in Santa Barbara. We attended the Fall USLA Meeting in Galveston last November, and thanks to a meeting schedule developed by Mr. Moore, we have met monthly ever since. The highlight of the Galveston meeting for me was the opportunity to go tanker surfing. Other significant developments included the adoption of the California State Parks swim standard of 1000 yards in open water in 20 minutes or less as an amendment to the certification standards, thus allowing them to regain their status as a certified agency, the motion to establish the Pacific Islands as a new region in the USLA, and the adoption of the PWC as a rescue tool guidelines. A draft open water swim safety guidelines was developed and posted on the USLA website for comment. Subsequently, a second draft was developed and is currently posted for comment. A spirit of teamwork and cooperation between the regions existed at the Galveston meeting; hopefully we are moving in the right direction.

A year ago, at the Spring meeting, I reported to you that the USLA had no national sponsorship to speak of and no contract with a national fundraiser. Unfortunately, that remains the case today. The issue of entering into a contract with a fundraiser that answered the RFP circulated by the USLA Development Committee was up for a vote when the candidate that was being considered withdrew herself from consideration. We still have another year on our regional contract with SHP, Inc. and the National still has nothing. One thing the USLA does have, that we have not had in the past, that may help with fundraising is an Annual Report. Kudos to President Brewster for developing a quality report that can be viewed on the USLA website on the Lifeguard Library page.

Our region is up in the rotation to host the next National USLA meeting this coming November. The Executive Board viewed a very attractive proposal from Alex Peabody of Cal State Parks to host a meeting at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. Unfortunately, the availability of the conference center facilities necessitated moving the meeting dates back a week and changing the meeting to Wednesday through Friday, instead of the customary Thursday through Sunday. It quickly became apparent that it was not in the best interests of the entire USLA to make the change, and that participation from other regions would be compromised, so we withdrew the proposal. We would still very much like to host a meeting at Asilomar and will be seeking to lock in the dates of our next turn at hosting at the Miami USLA meeting next month. At this moment we are undecided where the Fall 2005 meeting will be, but we are considering Long Beach or Orange County. The dates are November 3 - 5, 2005.

Competition Committee chairman Jay Butki recently returned from Australia where he was head coach, manager and financier of the USLA team at the International Surf Challenge and Aussie Titles. He will cover all the details in his report. Our Regional Championships will return to Long Beach on July 23, and USLA Nationals will travel to Virginia Beach commencing August 11, before returning to our coast in 2006.

Exchange Committee chair Chris Graham has been busy overseeing our guards down in New Zealand and planning for the Kiwi's trip up here this summer. He has also been attending our Executive Board meetings as Recurrent Rep, and with his wife, Executive Delegate Charlotte Graham, hosted the Executive Board at their home for our February meeting.

Thanks to Vice President and Membership Committee Chair Vince Lombardi, we have some great mugs that will be part of our membership kits, along with the new - look stickers that Mrs. Graham procured on our behalf.

The rest of the Executive Board has been busy too. Mike Beuerlein has kept and posted meticulous minutes of all our BOD and Executive Board meetings and did a fine job of updating our Communication List. Rob Williams has kept outstanding track of our inflows and outflows and has paid all our bills on time. Bob Moore, in addition to handling all website details, and developing our meeting schedule, has willingly given advice, whether asked for or not. Don Rohrer hosted our most recent Executive Board meeting at his Manhattan Beach mansion and has been staying on top of the open water swim standards issue, which could have easily become a divisive issue without his insight and intervention. Executive Delegate Mike Bartlett has continued in his role as editor of *American Lifeguard Magazine*, author of the Drowning Prevention Award and as head advocate of a National meeting in Laughlin. My heartfelt thanks go to all of the members of the Executive Board, committee chairs, and you, the members of the Board of Directors for all the hard work you do in the spirit of lifesaving. Here's to another great meeting, thanks for attending.

Yours in Lifesaving,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert McGowan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert McGowan President