



# 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](http://www.cslsa.org)

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS April 6, 2006

Robert C. McGowan  
*President*

Charlotte M. Graham  
*Vice President*

Michael A. Beuerlein  
*Secretary*

Robert E. Williams  
*Treasurer*

Robert A. Moore  
*Past President/Advisor*

Christopher R. Graham  
*Recurrent Representative*

Don C. Rohrer  
*First Executive Delegate*

Michael S. Bartlett  
*Second Executive Delegate*

Alex K. Peabody  
*Alternate Executive Delegate*

Thank you for attending the 2006 Spring meeting of the CSLSA Board of Directors, and thanks to the City of Huntington Beach and the HBSLSA for hosting the meeting. Although it has been the "off-season" for lifeguarding since our last meeting in October of 2005 at Lake Castaic, the members of the Executive Board of the CSLSA have been busy carrying on the business of the association, and representing the CSLSA to the USLA. For those of you unable to attend the Lake Castaic meeting, it was an election meeting, and some new faces were added to the Executive Board to represent you for the next two years. Elected officers were Rob McGowan, President, Charlotte Graham, Vice President, Mike Beuerlein, Secretary, Rob Williams, Treasurer, Ross Pounds, Recurrent Representative, Don Rohrer, Mike Bartlett, and Alex Peabody, Executive Delegates; and Bob Moore was reappointed and confirmed as Advisor. I would like to thank Vince Lombardi for his years of service on the board, wish him well in his future endeavors, but hope to see him at our biannual Board of Directors meetings. A few months following the election, Ross Pounds advised me that due to personal reasons, he would be unable to fulfill his term on the board. Chris Graham graciously accepted my invitation to rejoin the board as Recurrent Rep, pending confirmation of the Board of Directors at this meeting. We have a few new committee chairs for the next term too. Charlotte Graham, as Vice President, is the new Membership Chair, Alex Peabody took over Legislation, and Bill Humphreys of San Clemente will chair the Public Education Committee.

Following our regional meeting, we hosted the USLA National Board of Directors Meeting at Dana Point last November. Rob Williams organized an outstanding meeting that was enjoyed by all in attendance. It was the most productive USLA meeting I have ever attended. It included an excellent educational conference and an afternoon tour of the Crystal Cove restoration project. Special thanks to Ken Kramer for organizing and leading the tour. National officers were elected and Chris Brewster and Jerry Gavin were re-elected President and Vice President, Nikki Bowie of the South Atlantic Region was elected Secretary to replace Dave Shotwell who stepped down after serving for twelve years (great job Dave), Greg Farry was re-elected Treasurer, Chris Graham was elected Recurrent Rep, and Peter Davis, from Galveston was appointed and confirmed as the Liaison Officer. Tim Gallagher stayed on as Advisor. New National Committee Chairs include Eric Bauer (Certification), Ed Zebrowski (Competition), Adrienne Groh (Heroic Acts), and Rob Williams took over as the Public Education Committee Chairman. Other highlights of the meeting included the presentation of Heroic Acts awards to Brit Horn, Steve Reuter and Mackenzie Lothian, and the unanimous adoption of a resolution to enter into a letter of agreement with SHP, Inc. to provide fundraising for the USLA. Ralph Goto, of Hawaii agreed to be the primary point of contact between the USLA and Scott Hubbell. Mr. Hubbell is busy finding sponsorship agreements for the USLA Nationals, membership incentives, regional competitions, and public education. We are all hopeful that it becomes a successful venture, since the USLA has been without significant sponsorship for too long. A subcommittee spent the better part of three days updating and correcting the USLA bylaws. The revised version has been distributed to the regions for review and will be voted on at the Spring 2006 USLA Meeting, scheduled for April 27 through 29 in Annapolis, Maryland. The Fall 2006 meeting will be in Seattle in November.

The USLA Nationals are coming to Huntington Beach this summer on August 10, 11 and 12 at Beach Blvd. The Huntington State Beach Lifeguard Association is the host Chapter and Gus Avila is the organizing committee chair. Plans are in the works for a great event, and it's not too late to sign up to help. You can email Gus at [eljefe209@aol.com](mailto:eljefe209@aol.com) if you want to volunteer. A few competition rule changes were adopted at the Dana Point meeting. Starting in 2006, competition age groups will end with the 65+ group, false starts will not be allowed in any beach flags preliminary heats or age group finals, the Taplin (swim-board-ski) will be added as a demonstration

event with a limit of two teams per Chapter, and the Pacific Islands Region will be added to the Nationals rotation and will be considered part of the west coast within the rotation. Agenda items for the National Competition Committee Meeting include the make-up and purpose of sending the USLA National team to International competitions, funding of the team, adoption of the ILS rules in our competitions whenever possible, and selection of officials for the 2006 Nationals. If you have an interest in officiating at Nationals or Regionals, or anything else pertaining competition, be sure to attend the committee meeting or speak to Jay Butki.

The CSLSA Regionals are scheduled for August 5 at the Hermosa Beach Pier. On a one time basis, we have split the dates and locations for the Junior Lifeguard and Lifeguard Regionals. This year the Juniors will compete in Santa Barbara on July 21. The Lifeguard Regionals will be on the same day as the Taplin Relay and all agencies are encouraged to bring a team to compete in the Taplin, under the lights, following Regionals.

Dukes Restaurant here in Huntington Beach is sponsoring a public education fundraiser for us. Thanks to connections established by Steve Reuter with sponsors in the surf industry, Dukes will be hosting a series of "Big Wednesdays," starting April 19 and continuing through June 7. We need assistance from all Chapters to help host at these Wednesday night functions. More information and a sign-up sheet will be available at this meeting.

In conjunction with the rewrite of the National Bylaws, Bill Richardson, Don Rohrer, Bob Moore and I got together and did a total revision of the CSLSA Bylaws. Since Bill had already done a majority of the work, the process wasn't really too painful. Thanks to Bill and the other life members for their hard work. We will have a final draft to hand out today for your review, to be voted on at the Fall Board of Directors Meeting at Hearst Castle.

In addition to stepping up to take on the Recurrent Rep position on the Executive Board and updating the Employment test dates and pay rates page of our website, Chris Graham has remained busy in his duties as the Exchange Committee Chairman. Peter Belden from Newport Beach and Chris Geldert from Camp Pendleton are our returning Exchange guards, and they will be sharing their experiences in New Zealand with us today. We will be hosting two New Zealand lifeguards in Southern California this summer, so if you are interested in helping out, be sure to let Chris know. The announcement for the 2006 – 2007 exchange is available and can be downloaded from the CSLSA ([www.cslsa.org](http://www.cslsa.org)) website. The application deadline is August 23, 2006.

Charlotte Graham, our new Vice President and membership committee chair has been very busy too. Thanks to her efforts we have an attractive membership kit available for the Chapters to pick up at today's meeting. Charlotte coordinated with our fund raiser, Scott Hubbell, and with the T-shirt printer to produce a first-rate shirt in record time. She also arranged for us to get Croakies and key chains for the membership kits. With the USLA Nationals on the west coast this year it should be a good membership year; let's go for a new membership record!

I received a statistics update from Rick Gould, and the following agencies have not submitted their 2005 statistics to the USLA: Camp Pendleton, Del Mar, Encinitas, Long Beach, LA County Lakes, Pt. Hueneme, San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara, Seal Beach, and Solana Beach. That's almost a third of our member agencies. Please do anything you can to get your stats in; they are critical to the USLA statistics database. I am interested in creating a Statistics subcommittee that would work on standardizing the collection, reporting and compilation of statistics among all of our agencies. Anyone interested in serving on, or chairing this committee, please let me know.

I also received a request from a researcher from the California State Library wanting to know if the CSLSA has a position on dog beaches or dog zones. She is studying dog beaches at the request of State Assembly member Ted Lieu. This could be a discussion topic for the legislation committee, and perhaps we can come up with a position statement. If your agency has a dog beach or zone, please provide your input. If you would like to respond directly to the researcher, her name is Lisa Foster, Senior Policy Analyst, California Research Bureau, California State Library. Her email address is [lfoster@library.ca.gov](mailto:lfoster@library.ca.gov) and her phone number is (916) 653-6372.

I'm looking forward to a productive meeting and a great summer, with a lot more sun and surf, and a lot less red tide and jellyfish than 2005! Hope to see you at Regionals and Nationals.