



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

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Report to the Board of Directors April 6, 2006

The *California Lifeguard Training Officers Association* has had three meetings since our last October CSLSA meeting in Castaic. We met at Lake Mission Viejo on October 26, 2005, for an *Incident Command System (ICS)* training exercise. We simulated a lost swimmer off of a sailboat in approximately 25 feet of water, with seven (7) incoming mutual lifeguard agencies responding. We staged the vehicles in the Lake Mission Viejo parking lot and sent them into the drill one-by-one. This included California State Parks, Huntington Beach City, San Clemente City, Crystal Cove, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, and Lake Mission Viejo. There were approximately 32 participants in the drill, and Captain Peden was the IC, Lieutenant Burton was in-charge of Operations, and Lieutenant Scott handled Logistics. Thank you to all those who participated in this drill, and made this a very instructive event.

CURRICULUM REVIEW

Our next meeting was on February 24, 2006, at United States Ocean Safety's Headquarters in Dana Point. A draft of a proposed certification outline, detailing different training levels was discussed. Three levels were re-examined and revised; the Basic, Intermediate, and Advance Certification levels. Specific requirements for how each of these three levels was designed was also discussed and revised. A flow chart illustrating the different *Lifeguard Certification Tracks* was also reviewed.

MARCH MEETING

The Training Officer's Association was asked by the *Orange County Lifeguard Chief's Association* to attend their meeting on March 9, 2006, in Huntington Beach. At the meeting Ron Sutherland explained that each Chief was now going to pick someone specific from each department, including from the present group of Training Officers present, to attend Training Officer meetings, for which they had also prepared an agenda. This included analyzing methods of response, recommendations concerning safety issues, training, the use of various kinds of apparatus, manuals, and developing a marketing plan that would assist with recruiting, public relations, etc.

CONCLUSION

It seems only natural that the chief's can request that other association members attend one of their meetings, but coming from one association to another, it shouldn't be mandated? Isn't an association of professionals, peers that get together to establish certain standards, and to promote their own particular needs? For the Chiefs to invite all the Training Officers to a meeting, and then to appoint themselves in-charge of selecting whom they want to go to the next Training Officer's meeting, isn't that rather intrusive? For example, here at a CSLSA meeting no one is anyone's boss. We each have our own voice, and vote according to our own perspective - and the majority rules. For instance, when someone from the CSLSA goes to a National meeting, no one from another region is going to tell him or her what they are supposed to work on, or attempt to demonstrate any authority over them. Imagine if our own CSLSA Board of Directors each picked someone from the Mid-Atlantic Region, and mandated that they attend a meeting on a certain date so they could give them an agenda to follow. Can you imagine what would happen? And, rightfully so.

Shouldn't it be the same with any two associations, regardless of who's the boss at work? It seems only fair that either association should feel free to invite anyone that they want, from any other association, to attend their meetings, but not require it of another association member. Each Chief should certainly feel free to have a meeting with any member of their own staff, to discuss whatever they feel necessary, however, to require every member, or specific members of another association to attend another association meeting doesn't seem to reflect the true spirit of an association. I hope the Chief's can have enough confidence in their Training Officers to allow them to create their own purpose and goals, and, I hope the Training Officers can appreciate and respect how many years of experience the Chiefs have to share. Instead of "reassembling" anyone, perhaps sharing of ideas can be welcomed and encouraged.

THE FUTURE ASSOCIATION

I hope in the future that both these groups can appreciate each other's right to assemble freely on their own, in the true spirit of an association. And, to work together to improve Lifeguard Training in California through the CSLSA as our parent Association.

I, David Peden, would also like to resign as the CSLSA Chairman for Training and Qualifications. I have enjoyed serving on the committee, and as of the first of the year I have reassigned Lieutenant Scott as our official department's Training Officer. I would also like to nominate Lt. Mike Scott for President McGowan's consideration, for the position of *CSLSA Chairman of Training & Qualifications*.