



California Surf Lifesaving Association

B

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 12, 2007

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

Welcome to Los Angeles County and the Spring 2007 CSLSA Board of Directors Meeting. I would like to thank LACOLA for hosting the meeting and Charlotte Graham for doing the majority of the work to get the meeting organized. Not only did Charlotte arrange the details of the meeting, as membership chair she has been very busy putting together our membership kits which should be a big hit with our members. I would also like to thank our lifeguard management and the County of Los Angeles Fire Department for their continued support of our involvement in the USLA.

The lifeguard community and the USLA lost one of our founding fathers when retired Newport Beach Chief Kendall "Jake" Jacobsen passed away on March 24, 2007. Jake was instrumental in the formation of the USLA and he will be missed. My condolences go out to his family and friends. Memorial Services will be held at the American Legion Hall Post 291, at 15th St. in Newport Beach on the Peninsula at 4:00 pm, next Tuesday, April 17th, and I would like to dedicate this meeting in his honor and memory.

As anyone who has been to the beach over the last few months is well aware, our season is off to an early start. We've already had a good half dozen weekend days with air temperatures in the eighties at the beach this year, bringing summer-like crowds to Southern California beaches. Our lifeguard services are getting ready for spring, holding swim tryouts, training academies and preparing for another season of Junior Lifeguards. With some pretty decent winter swells over the past few months, the bottom is cut up enough that it should be a busy rescue season for us once the water warms up a bit.

Following our last CSLSA Board of Directors meeting in Morro Bay (thanks Herb White), the Pacific Northwest Region hosted the USLA National Meeting at Lake Tahoe last November at the Tahoe Ridge Resort. It was a great venue on the mountainside adjacent to the Heavenly Valley ski area. It wasn't quite ski season yet, but it did snow one of the days we were there. At the meeting Joel Gitelson of Los Angeles County was presented the Medal of Valor for his heroic actions involved in the rescue of three fishermen whose boat went aground on Santa Barbara Island on a cold, stormy winter night. His account of the event was featured in the Winter 2006 issue of *American Lifeguard Magazine*. Vic Maceo of the Galveston County Sheriff's Office Beach Patrol was presented a USLA Life Membership for his many years of service to the organization. Dr. Peter Wernicki, USLA Medical Advisor, discussed the U.S. Lifeguard Coalition comprised of the USLA, American Red Cross and YMCA. The focus is on research concerning many lifeguard related topics including scanning, breaks and training standards. The Educational Conference featured "The Making of a Beach Patrol Episode," "Everything You Wanted to know About Trauma Assessment," a presentation by the Douglas County Nevada Search and Rescue team, and a report on "Vamos a Nadar (Let's Go Swimming) - Drowning Prevention in Sonoma County, California." The next USLA Board of Directors Meeting and Educational Conference will be at the Best Western Inn of Chicago on April 26 through 28.

On the international front, the first International Life Saving World Water Safety (WWS) Conference will be held on September 27, 28 and 29, 2007 in Porto, Portugal. The hosts of WWS 2007 are the Instituto de Socorros a Náufragos (ISN) and the Associação de Nadadores Salvadores (ASNASA), both member federations of ILS. According to the *ILS News*, "WWS 2007 follows on the resounding success of the World Congress on Drowning 2002 in Amsterdam and the ILS International Medical Rescue Conference in 1997 in San Diego. The purpose of WWS 2007 is to bring together the world's foremost experts, systems and information for exchange, debate and further development that will lead to reduction of death and injury in all aquatic environments worldwide. The WWS 2007 will have two major events associated and simultaneous, one is the

Conference and the other is the International Water Safety Exhibition of lifesaving products, services and information.”

In January a team of California Lifeguards went to Victoria, Australia to compete in the 19th Wieland Shield Competition at Torquay, celebrating 40 years of the biannual Wieland Shield competition and Lifesaving exchange between California and Victoria, and the 50th anniversary of the first international lifeguard competition, the 1956 Olympic Surf Lifesaving Competition at Torquay Beach. The team members included Manager Jay Butki (L.A. County), Coach-Athlete Scott Diederich (Laguna Beach), Chad Carvin (Laguna Beach Lifeguard and 2000 Olympic Silver medalist), Micah Carlson (L.A. County), Kyle Daniels (L.A. County), Blaine Morgan (L.A. County and Cal State Parks), Tyler Morgan (L.A. County), Brian Murphy (L.A. County), Mike Murphy (L.A. County), Micha Burden (Huntington City), Renee Locarnini (L.A. County), Tandis Morgan (L.A. County) and Bridget Rome (L.A. County). Accompanying the team as Educational Officers were Jamie Orr and Sean Kennedy both from L.A. County. Although the team did very well in the swimming events, they were unsuccessful in their attempt to become the first Californian team to win the shield in Australia. Micha Burden won the Women's Division of the Lorne Pier to Pub Swim, the largest ocean swim in the world. While in Victoria the team was set up with tickets to the Australian Open and a flight on the Life Saving Victoria Coast Watch Airplane.

In competition closer to home, the *California Surf Life Saving Championships* are scheduled for July 28 in Huntington Beach. Hosted by the HBSLSA, the venue will be at the south end of the beach between Towers 17 and 19, in the Beach Boulevard area, adjacent to the site of last year's Nationals. The Junior Lifeguards will be returning to Santa Barbara for their regional championships on July 20. The *USLA National Lifeguard Championships* are going to be in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on August 9 through 11. The Crown Reef Resort has been selected as the host hotel and contact information is available on the USLA website Events Bulletin Board. The USLA Competition Committee has adopted ILS competition rules for the Nationals and the addition of the Oceanman relay as a point-scoring event. The updated rules will be available on the USLA website at <http://www.usla.org/events/rules.asp>. The Nationals return to our coast in 2008 hosted by Los Angeles County.

The CSLSA Executive Board meets monthly between Board of Directors Meetings. At our recent meeting Chris Graham, First Executive Delegate and Exchange Committee Chair, advised us that due to increased responsibilities at work, he would have to step down as the Exchange Committee Chair. I would like to thank Chris for his years of service in that position and thank Jon Mitchell of Newport Beach for stepping up to take over the Exchange Committee. Jon will chair the committee at today's meeting.

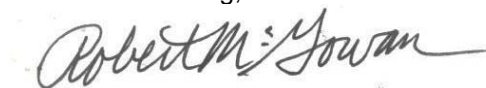
The City of Del Mar is seeking financial assistance from the California Conservancy to rebuild its slightly past its prime Lifeguard Headquarters. On behalf of the organization, I wrote a letter of support to the chief of the Coastal Conservancy. Good luck with the project Del Mar.

Thanks again to Steve Reuter for the outstandingly successful Public Education fund raiser "Big Wednesday" last summer. The fruits of his labors have been realized in the form of the "Be Safe Be Seen" poster designed by Huntington City recurrent lifeguard Melissa Murphy that will be distributed today. Melissa is also one of the primary organizers for this summer's California Surf Life Saving Championships

The long awaited *Patagonia* Pro Program is finally ramping up and should be available to all members in the very near future. The company is very sensitive about preventing abuse of this program. They offer their goods at extremely discounted prices to Pro Sales Program members and if they find you abusing the account by purchasing for non members, the account will be canceled and you will never be able to order through the program again. So please take advantage of the program, but be certain to be discreet and do not abuse the privilege. This membership benefit as well as *Da Fin* discount program have come to us through the efforts of Scott Hubbell of SHP, Inc. In addition to being the CSLSA Marketing Contractor, Scott is now developing marketing programs for the USLA. On behalf of all of our members I'd like to thank Scott for his efforts and wish him even greater success in the future.

So here's to a productive and enjoyable meeting, and another great summer. Keep your toes in the sand, keep them safe and come say "Hi" at Regionals or Nationals.

Yours in Lifesaving,



Robert McGowan