



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 10, 2008**

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Alex K. Peabody
Fourth Executive Delegate

Welcome to the Spring Meeting and thank you to Long Beach for hosting. Since our Board of Directors Meeting last October in Newport, your Executive Board has been meeting monthly to carry on the business of the association. As those of you who were there in Newport know, we held elections to elect the Executive Board to serve you for the next two years. Changes to the Executive Board include Jon Mitchell as First Executive Delegate, Bill Richardson as Second Executive Delegate, and Reenie Boyer as Third Executive Delegate. Those of you that have been involved with the CSLSA for a while will remember Bill and Reenie from previous Executive Boards; and Jon is a Newport Beach Captain who has taken over as our Exchange Committee chair and is in charge of the Employment Section of our website, updating the current test dates and starting pay information as the information becomes available. Welcome to the three of you and a heartfelt thanks to Chris Graham, Don Rohrer, and Mike Bartlett for your dedicated years of service to the CSLSA.

Most of our agencies have already had their swim tests for the summer of 2008. If the conditions this spring are any indication, our new recruits should be in for a busy summer. If you have not had your swim yet and your information on the website is not up to date, please let Jon Mitchell know, so we can get the correct information up.

Following our Newport Beach meeting last fall your Executive Board traveled to the national USLA meeting in South Carolina. At that meeting the updates to the competition rules that Don Rohrer, Bill Richardson, Bob Moore, Jay Butki and I worked on were accepted by the Competition Committee and were supposed to be posted on the USLA website. This national meeting was also an election meeting and the following are your national officers for the next two years: Chris Brewster, President, Kevin Sweat, Vice President (South Atlantic Region), Nikki Bowie, Secretary (South Atlantic Region), Rob Williams, Treasurer, and Chris Graham, Executive Delegate. Tim Gallagher was reappointed Advisor by President Brewster and Peter Davis, from Galveston was appointed Liaison Officer. Peter Wernicki continued on as the Medical Advisor, as did Chip More as Legal Advisor. Ed Zebrowski replaced Ralph Goto as Contracted Staff Liaison. Most of the national committee chairs remained the same with the exception of the Public Education Committee whose co-chairs are now Denise Blair and Andy Braudy. Once the minutes of national meetings are approved at the following meeting they are available on the USLA website at <http://www.usla.org/about/meetingminutes.asp>.

The USLA has applied for USA Olympic Committee recognition and thanks to the efforts of President Brewster we are close to achieving it. According to Mr. Brewster's recent email, "The bottom line is this: They are very interested in having us as members. The only significant barrier is that there is a requirement of 20% athletes representation on governing boards. Athletes mean people who have participated as athletes in the last 10 years. In our case, this would likely mean at the regional or national level. An important aspect of this is that the athletes must be appointed by other athletes. In other words, they cannot be coincidentally athletes (34% of our Board are now athletes, but that does not qualify). These people's job is to be athletes representatives, so that is their primary role, though not exclusive role.

If we are willing to change our Bylaws to require this, they are willing to accept that it would only be at the Board, Executive Committee and Competition Committee level. It would also need to be part of any appeals process (competition rules for DQs).

I am going to work with the USOC to come up with some proposed Bylaw amendment language that would work for them and hopefully for us. There are ways to do this without increasing the size of our Board and the USOC encourages this, as they believe the ideal size of Boards is in the 7 - 8 range.

If we can approve Bylaws in concept in Kauai and vote on them in November, the USOC would then put our application forward to their Board of Directors and, with that, we would most likely be approved."

Other important national news includes recent USLA Board of Directors action that revoked the certification of Lack's Beach Service of Myrtle Beach. This has some interesting potential repercussions since Myrtle Beach had expressed interest in hosting the 2009 National Competition. We are hopeful that Lack's will be able to come into compliance with the certification standards, so that they can once again become a certified agency.

Speaking of Nationals, after several disappointments, L.A. County has finally found a home for the 2008 USLA Nationals at the Manhattan Beach Pier on August 7, 8 and 9. Charlotte Graham and Jay Butki are heading up the organizing committee and have done an outstanding job. The website is up and running at www.uslanationals.org with hotel accommodations and event details already posted. Great work! Due to Competition Committee action at the last USLA national meeting, we will have a new event, The Women's Board Rescue Race and a couple of other changes. A new Open Point Score Championship perpetual trophy will be awarded to the team with the greatest number of points accrued in Open and Open Women by the highest scoring six men and six women per team. The Mid Atlantic Region volunteered to sponsor the trophy to be titled the Greg Farry award. The Competition Committee also approved the concept of establishing All-American teams to be used when selecting competitors to compete at international events. Team members are to be posted on the USLA website and published in *American Lifeguard Magazine*.

International competition is right around the corner, as the Victorian team will be arriving on our shores in July to contest the Wieland Shield. It's not like Competition chair Jay Butki doesn't already have enough on his plate with getting Nationals together, now he's

got the Aussies arriving at essentially the same time! I'm sure Jay would appreciate any help he can get, so please step up and offer him a hand.

Our 2008 CSLSA Regional Championships are going to be hosted by Seal Beach. The Junior Lifeguards are scheduled to compete on Friday July 25, and the lifeguard competition will be on Saturday the 26th. Make your plans now to be in attendance either as a competitor, spectator, or Official.

Executive Board member Alex Peabody has been busy on our behalf organizing our region's next opportunity to host a national meeting. The meeting is scheduled for April 23 through 25, 2009 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove. Due to Alex's connections with the State Parks System, this promises to be an outstanding meeting. If you ever wanted to attend a national meeting, this is your chance at a bargain price, not to mention a great location.

Alex was also kind enough to develop a pair of statistics reporting forms in the Microsoft Excel format. He will be presenting them at this meeting and I am hopeful that they are something that most of our agencies can adopt, at least in concept, towards the goal of standardizing our statistics reporting to the USLA. Thank you very much for your efforts Mr. Peabody.

The CSLSA and the USLA have both gone on record with letters of support of AB 2110, a boating safety bill that is currently before the California Assembly. I wrote a letter of support, as did Northwest Region President Cathy VonWald and USLA President Brewster. This legislation, if passed, would require California boaters to pass a licensing course with a written test. It is not perfect, but it is at least is a step in the right direction to improve boating safety in our state by ensuring that boaters have an understanding of basic boating safety rules and regulations before being allowed to operate a motorized vessel.

Finally, and perhaps most important of all the news I have to share is that Steve Long, former CSLSA President, father of big wave surfers Greg and Rusty Long, and long-time California State Parks Lifeguard and Superintendent of the Orange Coast District is retiring on April 30th. His retirement party will be on May 3rd at Doheny State Beach and features food, drink and live music. I'm sure Steve would love to see all of his CSLSA friends at this event. For details contact Mike Brouard at bruz725@lycos.com or (949) 212-9533.

Yours in Lifesaving,



Robert McGowan