



California Lifesaving Association

TO: CSLSA Board of Directors
 FROM: Bill Richardson, Committee Chair
 DATE: April 9, 2009
 SUBJECT: **Executive Delegate Report**

The last 6 months continue to be busy for me. I have worked on a couple of CSLSA and USLA Projects.

Regional Bylaw Review

President Brewster assigned me to obtain and review all of the region's Bylaws to verify that they are not in conflict with USLA's Bylaws as required to be a Regional Council of USLA.

I have obtained these Bylaws from the following:

- ✓ South Atlantic Region
- ✓ Southeast Region
- ✓ Great Lake Region
- ✓ Gulf Coast Region
- ✓ Pacific Northwest Region
- ✓ Southwest Region
- ✓ Pacific Islands Region

Only the Mid-Atlantic Region failed to provide a copy.

Of these, the Southeast, Great Lakes and Gulf Coast Regions took the Southwest Region's Bylaws and adapted them for their use, almost word for word. The Pacific Northwest Region is incorporated differently, as a Nonprofit Mutual Trust and therefore has completely different Bylaws.

The Pacific Islands Regions has not yet adopted a truly regional set of Bylaws but is currently using those adopted by the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association. They will be developing and adopting a truly regional set of Bylaws in the near future.

In my opinion there are no real problems with any of the region's Bylaws, but in any case all of them have been forwarded to Chip More, the USLA's Legal Advisor.

USOC Application and Bylaw Issue

While I still support the USLA becoming the governing body for lifesaving sport, the amendments to our and USLA Bylaws is of real concern to me. One concern is the potential impact on our recently obtained 501(c)(3) certification from the IRS. The change of focus from an organization recognized as an educational one and requiring 20% representation on both Boards may have adverse impact on that nonprofit status.

I continue to believe that there is another way to accomplish the goal of protecting lifesaving competition from others who might seek to be the governing body for our "sport." The suggestion of creating a USLA Lifesaving Competition federation of Foundation is but one of those possibilities.

USLA Policies & Procedures Update

Recently the USLA Secretary advised that the USLA P&P's had been updated to correct several formatting, spelling and punctuation errors, etc.

In reviewing the document in it's entirety, it was obvious that most changes were not substantive, however, there were a couple that require closer scrutiny to verify when and how the changes were made. When creating the original P&P Manual, the committee reviewed all minutes back to the beginning of USLA and established a provenance for policy being cited.

In the recent update, no effort was made to do this, thus losing the thread of reference I believe is important for several reasons, including maintaining that provenance.

The other activities I have worked on involved Certification and Special Awards & Presentations which will be reported on under Committee Reports.

USLA Consult in Chicago

In February I went to Illinois and an area about 22 miles north of Chicago to perform a consult for PDRMA (Park District Risk Management Association). In this consult I worked with Joe Pecoraro to look at Glencoe and Wilmette Park District operations to compare them with USLA Standards for training.

The resulting reports were 16 and 17 pages respectively, and provided recommendations for utilizing USLA Standards for training, as they currently use Red Cross or YMCA Lifeguard Certification. The second aspect was their Boater Assistance program for which there are no established national standards in the lifesaving industry.

I did provide some direction in this regard in telling them to look at the USLA Guidelines for PWC operations and to contact Marine Rescue Consultants to have a hands-on evaluation and training to create the level of service they desire and to improve on those they currently offer.

It is really interesting doing a lifeguard evaluation in the dead of winter, and in Chicago brrrrr!

CSLSA Representation

Finally, I believe it is time for some of you younger members of this board to step up. I hope that those of us currently on the Executive Board simply standing for reelection does not dissuade any of you from stepping up. While we all enjoy working together for the betterment of lifesaving and have, and I feel done a pretty good job of that mission, it is time for you to take ownership. More than once in the past year I have heard that sentiment expressed.

The one thing that all of you need to understand is that the CSLSA has always been the strongest region of USLA and a leader in moving our mission forward. The other thing that you need to understand is that the CSLSA Executive Board has **ALWAYS** taken the positions on issues of this Board of Directors to the USLA BOD Meetings. Often this has not been popular with others in USLA, but regardless, your intentions and beliefs are being represented and strongly supported.

Whoever is in leadership of CSLSA in the future, these factors must continue and if you find yourself on our Executive Board with a personal agenda that is not inline with what the CSLSA membership and BOD has decided is their position on an issue, you need to either represent the decided position, not express your opinion as that of CSLSA and/or bow out.