

President's Message

by Rob McGowan

I'd like to start off by wishing everybody a Happy New Year, and by congratulating our two newest Life Members Bob Moore and Chris Brewster. Bob and Chris were also voted in as Life Members at the National level. We had a successful year in 2001 and I am looking forward to even more successes in 2002. Before looking ahead to what's in store for the coming year, I'd like to do a **quick review** of 2001.

We Started the year with high hopes and a **new sponsorship contract** with Professional Event Solutions (PES) of San Diego. They were the organization that did much of the fundraising for the very successful 2000 USIA Nationals in San Diego, so we were both excited about the potential sponsors they could bring to the CSLSA. In spite of our optimism, when I wrote PES in June 2001 asking for an update on the progress of their efforts on our behalf, Joan Ewing of PES informed me that they had been unable to procure any sponsorship for us. They were suspending their efforts. Fortunately, the contractor that we turned down in favor of PES, Scott Hubbell, of SHP, Inc. of Malibu, was still interested in working with the CSLSA. We entered into an agreement with Mr. Hubbell on August 1, 2001 that includes sponsorship of our CSLSA Regionals, and membership kits. We are hopeful that this will be a successful, long-term venture, as the contract provides for extensions, based on favorable performance by SHP through 2006.

Imperial Beach did an outstanding job of hosting the **2001 CSLSA Regionals and Junior Lifeguard Regional Championships**. The weather was much more cooperative than it was in 2000, the surf was up again, and the water was cold again, but I think all competitors and spectators had a great time. Kudos to Hans Fernan and all of the Imperial Beach crew for a job well done. Thanks are also due to Bill Richardson, Bob Moore, Vince Lombardi, Don and Bev Rohrer, Chris Brewster, Gordon Gray, Russ Etwell, and the volunteer staff from Imperial Beach for running the adult event. Thanks also to the title sponsors Foster's and Sun Glass Hut, as well as the numerous local sponsors that helped make the event a success. LACOLA captured the team title, followed by San Diego City and Cal State Parks. Laguna, Del Mar and US Ocean Safety rounded out the top six. Complete results can be found at www.cslsa.org. The Junior Lifeguard Instructors ran the JG event in an equally exemplary fashion.

Speaking of Regionals, for those of you who may not have heard, Los Angeles County will be hosting the **2002 Junior Lifeguard and Lifeguard Regional Championships** at Venice Beach. The dates are Friday, July 26 for the Juniors and Saturday, July 27 for lifeguard competitors. Both events will be held at the Venice Pier. Mr. Hubbell has already obtained funding, organization is in progress, and we are looking forward to a fun filled event. Incidentally, at the Fall 2001 USIA Board of Directors meeting, the Competition Committee voted to shorten the courses to bring them into alignment with international distances. The swim will be approximately 350 meters, the board paddle 600 meters, and the ski 700 meters. The flag line will be moved in to 120 meters from shore (from 150 M), so the rescue races will be shortened, as will the Ironman/Ironwoman legs. These changes will make the races run quicker, and should make them more "spectator friendly." The Distance Run will now be 2000 meters, consisting of four 500-meter laps. The age group runs will be 1000 meters. The Surfboat (dory) distances will not change.

The 2001 USLA National Lifeguard Championships, hosted by the Miami Beach Chapter also went very well. It was well organized, well run, and our region performed well, with LACOLA picking up the "large team" championship and San Diego taking third place behind Monmouth County. Heidi Hannenian was the overall high point scorer and winner of the Women's high point award, and Anthony Vela placed second overall in the Men's division. Despite the heat and humidity, I believe that all in attendance will remember the 2001 Nationals as an outstanding event. Thank you Miami Beach.

In **other competition news**, Marshall Parks is the new CSLSA Competition Committee chairman, having graciously taken over the helm of the committee from me when I was elected President. Marshall is also a member of the organizing committee for the 2002 USLA National Championships scheduled for August 8, 9 and 10 at Pacific Beach in San Diego. Details and registration forms will be available at www.uslanationals.org. Fosters Lager did not renew as a sponsor for the 2002 Nationals or Regionals, but

the USIA Executive Board recently voted to grant the San Diego Organizing Committee the exclusive right to enter into negotiations with Anheuser Busch and/or SHP in an attempt to secure Anheuser Busch as a potential sponsor for the 2002 USIA Nationals. Scott Hubbell is guardedly optimistic that Anheuser Busch will come through with some level of funding for the Nationals, and that sponsorship may include Regionals in the other regions. Other upcoming competitions of note include the World Lifesaving Championships, *Rescue 2002*, in Daytona Beach, Florida from May 7-19. Mitch Kahn will be coaching the USLA team, and a training camp is set for the end of February. Visit the website at www.rescue2002.com for more information. All CSLSA Chapters are encouraged to enter a club team. There are also Master's events with five-year age groups, so there's no excuse not to attend. The 18th Annual All — Women Lifeguard Tournament is scheduled for July 31 at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, and the Taplin Relay will be Saturday, August 3 in L.A. County. Monmouth County is sending a team to compete in this race under the lights, so how about some more participation from the California teams?

If you have not checked out **our website www.cslsa.org** lately, you should. Vince Lombardi is doing an excellent job in his position as Webmaster, and Pat Francis of RFP Consulting, has performed all of the maintenance and updates flawlessly. The website looks great, and it includes links to almost everything you could ever need. You can even download past issues of *Cal Surf News*. Thanks for the good work Vince. Vince is also the co-editor, with Eric Sandy, of *Cal Surf News*, and he's your Recurrent Representative. Mike Bartlett should also be commended for the outstanding job he has done with *American Lifeguard Magazine*.

The California - New Zealand exchange program continues to be a great success, due in no small part to the leadership efforts of Chris Graham. The Kiwis toured our beaches this past summer, taking in our Regionals, the International Surf Festival and much, much more. The selection committee interviewed four men and four women in one of the most competitive selection processes to date, to pick the two lifeguards that will travel to New Zealand this year. The winners were Gennifer Amthor of Seal Beach and Casey Graham of Port Hueneme. Thanks to the members of the selection committee, Scott Deiderich of Laguna Beach, Vince Lombardi of Camp Pendelton and Eric Sandy of Del Mar.

Our **Junior Lifeguard Programs** have continued to grow both in membership and productivity. The Junior Guards had a Poster Contest that produced some excellent new artwork that will be utilized in future public education campaigns. J.G. Committee Chair Reenie Boyer presented a \$500.00 U.S. Savings Bond to the Poster Contest winners at our Fall 2001 Meeting at Cabrillo Beach. We are hoping to develop a California — New York Junior Lifeguard exchange program this coming summer. The project is being headed up by Grant Jefferies of Long Beach, CA.

Steve White, our former **Public Education chair**, accepted a promotion with the California State Parks System to Superintendent of the Topanga Sector. Unfortunately, his workload in his new position prevents him from continuing as chairman of the Public Education Committee. I appointed Rob Williams of Newport Beach to replace Steve as the Public Education chair. Rob was one of the organizers of the Newport Beach USLA Meeting in November 2000. The Public Education Committee is planning to produce bookmarks and book covers as future projects using the Junior Lifeguard Poster Contest artwork.

In **elections** held at our Fall 2001 Board of Directors Meeting in San Pedro, I was elected to my first full term as President. The rest of our Executive Board was re-elected, with Don Rohrer as Vice President, Mike Beuerlein as Secretary, Bob Moore as Treasurer, Bill Richardson as Past President / Advisor, Vince Lombardi as Recurrent Rep. Mike Bartlett and Chris Brewster will be staying on as Executive Delegates. Chris Graham was elected to replace Steve White as the third Executive Delegate. The two-year terms began January 1, 2002.

Our next Board of Directors Meeting is April 18 and 19 at San Onofre. Look for details in March. Hope to see you there.