



2014

USLA Spring Board of Directors Meeting and Educational Conference

Shorebreak Hotel
500 Pacific Coast Hwy
Huntington Beach, California 92648



United States Lifesaving Association

PO Box 366 • Huntington Beach, California 92648 • Tel: 866-FOR-USLA (866-367-8752)

www.usla.org

A Lifesaving Triumph – USLA's 50th

B. Chris Brewster
President

Peter Davis
Vice-President

Nikki Bowie
Secretary

Rob Williams
Treasurer

Charles Hartl
Executive Delegate

Bert Whitaker
Liaison Officer

Dr. Peter Wernicki
Medical Advisor

John "Chip" More
Legal Advisor

Two score years and a decade ago, a group of Southern California lifeguards assembled and approved the creation of an organization dubbed the Surf Life Saving Association of America. They had some lofty goals which they outlined in a press release:

- To work for the adoption of the best lifesaving methods by all public agencies
- To promote the use of the best available equipment by lifeguards
- To encourage improved training and education of both professional lifeguards and the beach using public
- Consultation and advice to any public agency whenever in the best interest of public safety
- To work generally for the improvement of the professional status of lifeguarding

These lifeguards were all fiercely loyal to their own lifeguard agencies and no doubt pretty certain theirs was the best of all, but somehow they recognized that from unity would come strength and from strength would come betterment of the profession.

Of course, one might rightly say that it was pretty audacious for lifeguards from a couple of counties in California to declare their organization to be the national association of lifeguards. But it had to start somewhere and it appears they didn't know much about lifeguards elsewhere in the country. Fax machines weren't yet available, much less the Internet.

To their credit and that of those who followed, they reached out and that seed of a concept slowly grew to be the United States Lifesaving Association – now a truly national organization representing every region of the USA.

Much will be said during our 50th anniversary year, but perhaps the key facts are three: Forward thinking lifeguards created the organization; dedicated lifeguards across the USA grew it; and the USLA has now evolved to achieve everything and more than its founders imagined. That is an accomplishment not of one, but of all.

To the next 50 years!

Lifesaving Aye,

B. Chris Brewster
President



California Surf Lifesaving Association

Southwest Region - United States Lifesaving Association

PO Box 366 - Huntington Beach, California 92648

World Wide Web: www.cs/lsa.org

Michael A. Beuerlein
President

April 24, 2014

William J. Humphreys Jr.
Vice President

Kai J. Bond
Secretary

Robert E. Williams
Treasurer

Robert C. McGowan
Past President/Advisor

Michael G. Silvestri
First Executive Delegate

Gustavo S. Avila
Second Executive Delegate

Jay M. Butki
Third Executive Delegate

George C. Leeper
Fourth Executive Delegate

On behalf of the California Surf Lifesaving Association, I would like to welcome all USLA members to Surf City USA. We are honored to host open-water Lifeguards from across the United States to celebrate USLA's 50th Anniversary. Festivities will include current Lifesaving business, past Lifesaving history and lots of celebration. It all begins with the USLA Board of Directors Meeting, followed by the Educational Conference featuring past USLA Presidents, and concluding with a final Gala celebration.

If you've ever longed to experience the allure of Southern California's endless summer - the ocean, wide-open beaches, surf culture, and kick-back spirit - Huntington Beach is where to live your dreams. When the surf rolls in along the pier and the sunset paints both sky and ocean a vivid orange, Surf City USA will grab hold of you and never let go.

The Huntington Beach Marine Safety Division protects one of the busiest beaches in the world. The U.S. Open of Surfing, volleyball tournaments and other events transform Surf City USA's waterfront into a sea of humanity each summer. City Lifeguards patrol 4.75 miles of coastline that attracts over 11 million visitors annually, resulting in more than 4,000 ocean rescues.

Remembering that Huntington Beach became headquarters to USLA in 1964, CSLSA is very proud to host USLA's 50th Anniversary celebration in Surf City USA. We are excited to have so many living legends participate and share the USLA oral tradition. Today's Lifeguards owe a huge debt of gratitude to those pioneers who laid the foundation for our profession. USLA has united Lifeguards around the country to promote professional Lifesaving standards and beach safety awareness. Millions of lives have been saved as a result. Let's make our 50th an Anniversary to remember!

Lifeguards for Life!

Michael A. Beuerlein
CSLSA President

United States Lifesaving Association

Board of Directors Meeting
and
Educational Conference



Shorebreak Hotel

500 Pacific Coast Highway
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

April 24-26, 2014



USLA 2014 Spring Board of Directors Meeting and Educational Conference

DRAFT AGENDA

April 24-26, 2014

Wednesday, April 23rd:

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM:

Registration & Reception - Shorebreak Hotel Suite 213
Sponsored by the *John Wayne Cancer Foundation*

Thursday, April 24th:

Board of Directors and Committee Meetings
**Business attire is required for all Delegates on the first two days of the USLA Board of Directors meeting and casual attire on Saturday.*

7:30 AM:

Registration & Breakfast – Epic Foyer

8:00 AM:

Heritage Committee – Epic Ballroom

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM:

Board of Directors Meeting – Epic Ballroom

- I. Call to Order – (Mr. Brewster)**
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance – (Mr. Davis)
 - B. Welcome and Introductions – (Mr. Brewster)
 - C. Moment of Silence for the Departed
- II. Roll Call of Delegates – (Ms. Bowie)**

DELEGATE VOTES BASED ON MEMBERSHIP (AS OF April 8, 2014)

Member/Director Ratios

2-25	1 Director
26-100	2 Directors
101-200	3 Directors
201-400	4 Directors
401-600	5 Directors
601-800	6 Directors
801 and over	7 Directors

	MEMBERS	VOTES	PRESENT	PROXY	TOTAL	JUNIORS
GREAT LAKES JOE PECORARO	18	1	1	0	1	0
GULF COAST PETER DAVIS TONY PRYOR	113	3	2	1	3	67
MID-ATLANTIC ED ZEBROWSKI DAVE FOXWELL TIM GALLAGHER TOM PERRY BART MATTALIANO DENISE BLAIR ED ZEBROWSKI III	1029	7	7	0	7	775
NEW ENGLAND BOB BERTRAND	29	2	1	1	2	0
NORTHWEST BERT WHITAKER DAVID ROBINSON	90	2	2	0	2	1
PACIFIC ISLANDS KALAI VIERRA RALPH GOTO ARCHIE KALEPA	170	3	3	0	3	22
SOUTH ATLANTIC TOM GILL ANDRIENNE GROH RALPH WAGNER DUKE BROWN MICHAEL BRADLEY CHAD MOTZ RON WATSON	812	7	7	0	7	211
SOUTHEAST GERRY FALCONER JIM McCRADY JO WAGENHALS KARISSA ICKE S JEREMY WATKINS	541	5	5	0	5	633
SOUTHWEST MIKE BEUERLEIN ROB WILLIAMS BILL HUMPHREYS ROB McGOWAN KAI BOND MIKE SILVESTRI GUS AVILA	1436	7	7	0	7	5677
Sub Totals	4229	37	35	2	37	7507
International (at large)	3					0
TOTALS	4232					7507



USLA 2014 Spring Board of Directors

DRAFT AGENDA

April 24-26, 2014

- III. Approval of Agenda**
- IV. Approval of Minutes** – From USLA Board of Directors Meeting in Hyannis, MA November 7-9, 2013
- V. Memorialization** – of Executive Committee Action since previous Meeting
 - A. “Shall the Executive Committee approve a two year agreement with SwimOutlet with deal points(contract to be developed and approved by our legal team)? Motion passed with 1 abstention.
- VI. Officers Activity Reports** – Verbal reports to be limited to approximately two minutes, Highlighting the key points in written reports previously submitted & published.
 - A. **President** – (Mr. B. Chris Brewster)
 - B. **Vice President** – Mr. Peter Davis)
 - C. **Secretary** – (Ms. Nikki Bowie)
 - D. **Treasurer** – (Mr. Rob Williams)
 - E. **Executive Director** – (Mr. Charlie Hartl)
 - F. **Advisor** – (Vacant)
 - G. **Liaison Officer** – (Mr. Bert Whitaker)
 - H. **Medical Advisor** – (Dr. Peter Wernicki)
 - I. **Legal Advisor** – (Mr. Chip More)
- VII. Regional Council Activity Reports**
 - A. **Great Lakes** – (Mr. Joe Pecoraro)
 - B. **Gulf Coast** – (Mr. Tony Pryor)
 - C. **Mid-Atlantic** – (Mr. Ed Zebrowski)
 - D. **New England** – (Mr. Bob Bertrand)
 - E. **Northwest** – (Mr. Bert Whitaker for Ms. Cathy Von Wald)
 - F. **Pacific Islands** – (Mr. Ralph Goto)
 - G. **South Atlantic** – (Mr. Tom McGill)
 - H. **Southeast** – (Mr. Gerry Falconer)
 - I. **Southwest** – (Mr. Mike Beuerlein)
- VIII. Executive Director** – (Ms. Kay Smiley)
- IX. Fund Raising and Sponsorship Oversight** – (Mr. Ed Zebrowski)
- X. Magazine Publication** – (Mr. Mike Bartlett)
- XI. Public Information** – (Mr. Tom McGill)
- XII. USLA Statistician** – (Mr. Rick Gould)
- XIII. Sponsor Presentations**
- XIV. Committee Chair Reports**
 - A. **Standing Committees**
 - i. **Bylaws** – ((Mr. Ed Zebrowski III)
 - ii. **Certification** – (Mr. Tony Pryor)
 - iii. **Competition** – (Mr. Ed Zebrowski)
 - iv. **Heroic Acts – Recognition, Awards & Presentations** – (Ms. Adrienne Groh)
 - v. **Junior Guards** – (Ms. Reenie Boyer)
 - vi. **Membership** – (Ms. Charlotte Graham)
 - vii. **Public Education** – (Ms. Denise Blair)
 - viii. **Ways & Means** – (Mr. Rob Williams)



USLA 2014 Spring Board of Directors

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B. Working Group Committees

- i. Heritage** – (Mr. Dave Shotwell)
- ii. Lifesaver Education** – (Mr. Tim Gallagher)
- iii. Medical** – (Dr. Peter Wernicki)
- iv. Website** – (Ms. Karissa Ickes)
- v. 50th Anniversary** – (Mr. Andy Healy)

XV. Sponsor Presentations

XVI. Board of Directors Meeting Adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM: Lunch - on the Patio

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM: Committee Meetings

Heroic Acts – Epic 3

Junior Guards – Epic 2

Working Group Committees – Epic 1

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM: Committee Meetings

Certification – Epic 3

Competition – Epic 2

Working Group Committees – Epic 1

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM:

Committee Meetings

Public Education – Epic 3

Membership – Epic 2

Working Group Committees – Epic 1

Friday, April 25, 2014

Committee Meetings

**Business attire is required for all Delegates on the first two days of the USLA Board of Directors meeting and casual attire on Saturday.*

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Continental Breakfast – Epic Ballroom Foyer

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Committee Meetings

Executive – Epic 3 - USLF meeting immediately following the conclusion of the Committee Meetings

Working Group Committees – Epic 2

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM: Committee Meetings

Ways and Means – Epic 3

Bylaws (if necessary) – Epic 2

Working Group Committees – Epic 1

12:00 PM:

Lunch - Huntington Beach Junior Lifeguard HQ - Sponsored by WaveJet (Pacific Coast Highway at 1st Street)

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Rescue Product Demonstrations

Wave Jet

C4 Waterman

Quadski

Oluki

John Wayne Cancer Foundation



USLA 2014 Spring Board of Directors

DRAFT AGENDA

April 24-26, 2014

Saturday, April 26, 2014 – USLA Board of Directors Meeting & Educational Conference

**Business attire is required for all Delegates on the first two days of the USLA Board of Directors meeting and casual attire on Saturday.*

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM **Continental Breakfast** – Epic Ballroom Foyer

9:00 AM **Board of Directors Meeting** – Epic Ballroom

Call to Order – (Mr. B. Chris Brewster)

XVII. Committee Action Reports (Motions and voting limited to Officers & Regional Delegates)

A. Standing Committees

- i. **Executive Committee** – (Mr. B Chris Brewster)
- ii. **Bylaws** – (Mr. Ed Zebrowski III)
- iii. **Certification** – (Mr. Tony Pryor)
- iv. **Competition** (Mr. Ed Zebrowski)
- v. **Heroic Acts-Recognition, Awards & Presentations** – (Ms. Adrienne Groh)
- vi. **Junior Guards** – (Ms. Reenie Boyer)
- vii. **Membership** – (Ms. Charlotte Graham)
- viii. **Public Education** – (Ms. Denise Blair)
- ix. **Ways & Means** – (Mr. Rob Williams)

XVIII. Sponsor Presentations

XIX. Committee Action Reports (Motions and voting limited to Officers & Regional Delegates)

Heritage – (Mr. Dave Shotwell)

- i. **Heritage** – (Mr. Dave Shotwell)
- ii. **Lifesaver Education** – (Mr. Tim Gallagher)
- iii. **Medical** – (Dr. Peter Wernicki)
- iv. **Website** – (Ms. Karissa Ickes)
- v. **50th Anniversary** – (Mr. Andy Healy)

XX. Old Business (Motions and voting limited to Officers & Regional Delegates)

A. USOC Update

- B. From the Bylaws Committee Bylaw change proposed at the Fall 2013 meeting for Article XI Sections 3 and 4 – Section 3** ~~“The following shall be considered standing committees: Membership, Public Education, Certification and Ways and Means. Standing Committees shall include one voting member from each region, unless the region chooses not to be represented, and a non-voting chairperson or persons. Standing Committees shall be listed in the Policies and Procedures.~~ No Standing Committee shall be chaired by the USLA President, Vice President or Secretary.” Section 4 change title from Special ~~Committees to Working Group Committees~~ and ~~“The following shall be considered special committees: Competition, Heroic Acts, Junior Lifeguard, Magazine Publication and Website. Working Group Committees may be listed in the Policies and Procedures. Working Group Committees may be listed in the Policies And Procedures.~~ Additional committees and professional advisory boards may be created by the President or Executive Committee with the approval of the Board of Directors. No Working Group Committee shall be chaired by the USLA President, Vice President or Secretary.”

XXI. New Business (Motions and voting limited to Officers and Regional Delegates)

XXII. Open Forum and Announcements (Any USLA member may raise issues. Motions and votes limited to Officers and Regional Delegates.)



USLA 2014 Spring Board of Directors

DRAFT AGENDA

April 24-26, 2014

XXIII. Future Meetings

- A. 2014 Fall: South Atlantic, November 6-8, 2014, Virginia Beach, VA
- B. 2015 Spring: Gulf Coast, April 23-25, 2015.

XXIV. Privilege of the Chair

XXV. Adjourn

Box Lunch

12:30 PM 50th Anniversary Educational Conference Registration

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM - 50th Anniversary Educational Conference

- Master of Ceremonies – Byron Wear USLA Executive Director (1979-1983)
- Max Bowman, World Lifesaving President (1988-1993)
- Bob Burnside, Founding President (1963-1967)
- Dick Miller, USLA President (1980-1981)
- Joe Pecoraro, USLA President (1982-1991)
- Bill Richardson, USLA President (1992-1999)
- Don Rohrer, USLA President (2000-2003)
- B. Chris Brewster, USLA President (2004-Present)
- Presentation – John Wayne Cancer Foundation
- Special Awards and Presentations

5:00 PM - No Host Social Hour – Patio

7:00 PM - 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner Celebration





USLA 2014 Spring Board of Directors

HISTORY

The Early Years

In America, as early as the 1700s, dories were launched from shore by lifesavers to save shipwrecked people in distress. They came to be organized as the United States Lifesaving Service and eventually were to save 178,741 people from drowning. But as ships moved from sail to mechanical power, shipwrecks became increasingly rare.

In the late 1800s, as the problem of shipwrecks was fading, swimming began to emerge as a widely popular form of recreation, and the need to rescue distressed swimmers became evident. The members of the U.S. Lifesaving Service eventually moved on to become part of the U.S. Coast Guard, while a new type of lifesaving emerged: guarding the lives of swimmers at the beach.

Unlike in other countries, these lifeguards were typically paid employees of local governments, often organized in a manner similar to police or fire departments. At first, these beach lifeguard services developed their own lifesaving methods, sometimes capitalizing on innovations they learned from other lifeguards. The exchange of information was limited though and beach lifeguard practices tended to develop locally and regionally, with significant variations from place to place.

Surf Life Saving Association of America

Decades after professional lifeguard agencies had been established at beaches throughout America, Australia was chosen to host the 1956 Summer Olympics. The volunteer lifesavers of Australia decided to hold an international, invitational competition. California lifeguards and a contingent from the Territory of Hawaii agreed to participate. The California lifeguards organized themselves under the banner of the Surf Life Saving Association of America (SLSA), although they were solely from the Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City lifeguard agencies.

The event drew a crowd of 115,000 spectators, with the legendary "Duke" Paoa Kahanamoku of Hawaii as the honorary chairman. In addition to the Americans and Australians, teams from South Africa, Great Britain, Ceylon, and New Zealand participated.

It was as a result of this event that the rescue tube, which had been designed in California, and the rescue buoy, which had been perfected there, were first introduced to Australia. U.S. team members also brought Malibu Balsa Surfboards with them, the first total Australian exposure to the Malibu Surfboard. When they departed Australia, the boards were left behind, which revolutionized surfing in Australia. At the same time, the Americans learned of the superior, national organization of Surf Life Saving Australia, and thought of the potential for a similar national organization in their own country.

After the event, Los Angeles County Lifeguard Chief Bud Stevenson decided to use SLSA in his efforts to upgrade professional lifeguarding and it became, for a time, the political arm of the Los Angeles County lifeguards. This allowed political action which was outwardly separate from that of the managers of the lifeguard service. Chief Stevenson appointed Bob Burnside as president of the nascent organization.

In 1963, efforts were commenced to expand the scope of Surf Life Saving Association of America. Burnside called for representatives from as many Southern California lifeguard agencies as possible to attend a concept meeting at the City of Santa Monica Lifeguard Headquarters. In attendance were Vince Moorhouse (Huntington Beach), Max Bowman (Huntington Beach), Don Rohrer (Los Angeles City), Dick Heineman (Los Angeles City), Tim Dorsey (Seal Beach), host Jim Richards (Santa Monica), and a representative from Long Beach.



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HISTORY

Surf Life Saving Association of America – *Continued*

The group agreed that they should establish a truly national organization, based on the structure of the Australian association, to be called the Surf Life Saving Association of America. They established Southern and Northern chairmen of California, and a temporary executive board to establish a constitution, bylaws, and method of representation.

In 1964, Howard Lee of Los Angeles County designed the SLSA logo, still in use today with minor modifications. His design was influenced by a similar design that Tad Devine of the 1956 Australia team had created for the team uniform. Both are similar to the logo of the United States Lifesaving Service. Also in 1964 the first competition guidelines were established.

National Surf Life Saving Association of America is Born

In 1965, bylaws and a constitution were adopted, and the name was changed to the National Surf Life Saving Association (NSLSA). The first election of officers was held, at that time for a one-year term of office. They were President Bob Burnside, Vice President Dick Hazard (San Clemente), Treasurer Max Bowman, Secretary Don Rohrer, and Sergeant at Arms Tim Dorsey. The goals and objectives were identified and weekly meetings were agreed upon, rotating among different lifeguard headquarters for more than a year.

The first NSLSA competition series started in 1965. The first NSLSA events were: The run-swim-run, 1000 meter open swim, dory race, and the paddle race. Each chapter requested hosting a single event to be approved by the NSLSA Board. The event generally took place during communities' local ocean festivals. Ray Bray of Huntington Beach made the motion, which was approved, to have a draw for the order of the segments of Iron Man event, which was added in 1966.

Initially, the emphasis was placed on individuals, rather than a team concept.

A year earlier, in 1964, ABC television's Wide World of Sports had filmed a lifeguard competition at Huntington Beach. During the competition, two lifeguards lost control of their dory on a 10-foot wave and crashed into the Huntington Beach pier. It became one of Wide World of Sports' "Great Moments" of 1964, replayed repeatedly for television audiences throughout America.

In 1965, the Los Angeles County Association had invited Surf Life Saving Australia to send a 10 man Team to California on the first exchange between the two countries. While they were in the US, Bob Burnside received a call from a promoter in New York, stating that he had sold to ABC Wide World of Sports, a Lifeguard Championship, to be held in New York. He wanted to include the Australians as part of the filming. Seeing an opportunity for the newly formed NSLSA West Coast lifeguards to be able to meet and compete with their East Coast counterparts, Burnside advised the promoter that if he paid for all flight and accommodations, for both the Australian Team and a ten man California Team, he would make the event happen. It was agreed upon and a contract was signed. Thus, for the first time in American history, lifeguards from both coasts met and competed against each other and the foundation for the future of a truly national association took a big step forward. This televised, international event was held at Montauk Point on Long Island. Now East and West Coast lifeguards realized they were of the same family and the concept of a truly national affiliation under the umbrella of NSLSA took seed.



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HISTORY

National Surf Life Saving Association of America is Born – *Continued*

In 1967, NSLSA sent a competition team to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to compete in the first recognized East versus West lifeguard championships, continuing the national affiliation concept among all the agencies involved. Teams from New York to Miami and the West Coast teams battled it out in a rousing competition.

Building on relationships begun with the competition, Lt. Jim Holland of the Miami Beach Patrol was appointed to act as the NSLSA's East Coast liaison. He brought the first Florida chapters into NSLSA: Miami Beach and Boca Raton. Bob Burnside, who stepped down to become NSLSA Secretary, flew to Florida to tour the beaches with Lt. Holland in an effort to further increase Eastern affiliations.

It was also during 1967 that the Australians invited the NSLSA affiliated lifeguards back for a competition tour that included several unusual feats. This included a stunning win by the 16 year old Huntington Beach lifeguard Spike Beck in the Australian National Championship Junior Belt Race. At the New South Wales championships Australian veteran "Spas" Hearst, Bob Burnside, Paul Matthies (LACO), Jim Richards (Santa Monica), and Ruby Kroon teamed up for a bi-national win in the surfboat race. The entire tour lasted two months and included New Zealand, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and Tasmania. The team members were Bob Burnside (Team Manager), Rudy Kroon of Santa Monica (Team Coach), Chiefs Bud Stevenson of LA County and Myron Cox of LA City (special emissaries), Paul Cohee of Huntington Beach, Jon Helland of California State Southern, Jerry McGraw of California State Southern, Mike Byrant of LA County, Doug Jensen of California State Central, Jerry Bennett of San Clemente, Joe Metzger of California State Southern, Ray Bray of Huntington Beach, George Loweree of LA County, Eric Arneson of California State Central, Alex Nordholm of LA County, Spike Beck of Huntington Beach, Brian Gerold of Huntington Beach, Howard Henderson of California State, and Larry Haines of LA County.

In 1969 the Dade County (Florida) Board of Supervisors requested that NSLSA representatives review lifeguard procedures there in the wake of a rash of ocean drownings. Burnside and Phil Stubbs, of San Clemente, handled this task, making recommendations that resulted in the installation of a communication system, new vehicles and equipment, new qualification requirements, increased funding, and the hiring of Lt. Holland as chief of the Dade County Lifeguard Division. It was the first demonstration of the potential power of NSLSA to improve lifesaving standards nationwide. Also in 1969, the first international educational exchange by NSLSA members began with a visit to Auckland, New Zealand.

In 1971, World Life Saving was founded in Australia, as an international federation composed of the national surf lifesaving associations of Australia, Great Britain, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States. Chief Vince Moorhouse of Huntington Beach was appointed as the first Liaison to this World Body. Also in 1971, recommended beach standards and certification parameters were first completed by NSLSA for all lifeguard classifications in an effort to improve standardization and professionalism.

In 1972, NSLSA was granted tax-exempt status as a not for profit, educational organization. NSLSA also began preparing the groundwork for a nationally recognized beach training certificate to be issued to newly trained lifeguards. The following year, NSLSA organized the development of agreements on standardization of beach warning flags and the first international training officer's exam.



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HISTORY

National Surf Life Saving Association of America is Born – *Continued*

Over the years, NSLSA had been very successful in organizing national and international exchanges of information, competitions, and public education efforts to help reduce drowning. Initial progress to embrace East Coast agencies, however, had languished and the organization remained largely an association of California lifeguards, with a few chapters from Florida. Some NSLSA leaders felt that the organization should remain a surf lifesaving organization, barring participation from lifeguards at lakes, rivers, and similar venues. Others felt that all lifeguards at natural, open water locales should be eligible. One such proponent was Sheridan Byerly, a member of the 1956 Australian competition team and the more recent South African tour.

In 1977, Sheridan Byerly was elected president. A priority for Byerly was the push to make NSLSA a truly national organization. Changes to the bylaws were drafted and plans were laid to create regions throughout the United States with their own presidents and executive boards. Many though, continued to oppose opening the organization.

Halfway through Byerly's term of office, the secretary resigned and Byron Wear of San Diego was appointed the replacement. In February 1979, Byerly and Wear took leave of their jobs and began recruiting work in Florida, encouraging further participation from that area. They met with lifeguards from many agencies, including Joe Wooden and Tom Renick of Volusia County.

In May 1979, the NSLSA Board of Directors meeting in Santa Cruz, California, with great debate, voted to adopt the various bylaw changes that had been drafted to broaden the scope of the organization and to remove the word "surf" from the organization's name. It was to be the United States Lifesaving Association (USLA). Members could now include any member of an ocean, bay, lake, river, or open water lifesaving or rescue service.

After the meeting, Byerly and Wear traveled east again, this time to Chicago, around the Great Lakes, to Maine, and down the East Coast. Wear returned west to assume the position of executive director of the newly expanded organization.

In fall of 1979, Dick Miller of Long Beach was elected president of USLA, with Bill Carey of Boca Raton elected vice president. Byerly, as outgoing president, had the right to an executive board position known as past president, but in the continuing spirit of nationalizing the organization, he asked that Joe Pecoraro of Chicago take his slot on the executive board instead. The 1979 board therefore became the first to include officers from outside California.





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HISTORY

United States Lifesaving Association is Born

The first national American lifeguard competition under the banner of USLA was held in San Diego, California in August 1980, bringing members of the various USLA chapters together in a spirited gathering which resulted in much camaraderie. Since then, national competitions have continued annually.

The primary goal of USLA is to, "Establish and maintain high standards of professional surf and open water lifesaving for the maximizing of public safety." As such, USLA leaders have long worked to standardize training and lifesaving practices throughout the United States through various means. This has sometimes proven to be a difficult task.

Unlike the pool environment, which is virtually identical regardless of locale, open water beaches and their related hazards vary dramatically from place to place. Crowd conditions, water currents, dangerous marine life, weather and many other factors contribute to these variations. Furthermore, the assignments of beach lifeguards can differ significantly.

In recognition of the challenges spawned by this diversity, but with a continuing desire to set minimum standards that could be implemented on a national scale, a conference convened in 1980 at Texas A&M University in Galveston. The purpose was to develop guidelines for establishing open water recreational beach standards. It was co-sponsored by USLA, the American Camping Association, and the Council for National Cooperation in Aquatics. The other major groups represented at this conference included

- American Red Cross
- Boy Scouts of America
- Center for Marine Training and Safety of Texas A & M
- Centers for Disease Control
- Girls Scouts of America
- National Park Service
- National Safety Council
- U.S. Coast Guard
- YMCA

The result of the conference was a Sea Grant publication, edited by James McCloy and James Dodson, outlining the work of those in attendance. It included recommendations for the minimum age, physical conditioning, swimming skills, training, and equipment for lifeguards, as well as a number of other areas of importance. Shortly thereafter, USLA developed and published *Guidelines for Open Water Lifeguard Training* in concert with the findings of the conference.

Creating a national training manual that embraced the surf environment, as well as inland beaches, had long been a desire of the organization, and much work had been devoted to the project over the years. In 1981, a group composed of Captain Douglas D'Arnall of the City of Huntington Beach, Captain Don Rohrer of Los Angeles County, Captain Bob Shea of the San Diego Lifeguard Service, and Richard Marks of the City of Los Angeles, completed work on USLA's first open water lifesaving manual, *Lifesaving and Marine Safety*. It was immediately welcomed as the first text for all open water rescue personnel.

The first president from east of the Mississippi River was elected in 1981: Joe Pecoraro of Chicago. It was the beginning of a long presidency, for Pecoraro was re-elected in 1983, 1985, 1987, and 1989, serving a total of 10 years as USLA president.



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HISTORY

United States Lifesaving Association is Born – *Continued*

During Pecoraro's tenure, much discussion took place regarding the need for a national certification program for beach lifeguards based on the published USLA guidelines. It was widely believed that existing programs of the time were inadequate to address needs at surf and major inland beaches. Bruce Baird of Laguna Beach was appointed to this important task, but the discussions were overshadowed by concerns over civil liability and the reality of significant differences in lifeguard training in various areas of the United States.

During this period, Tim Hall of Maine was appointed to head a committee seeking to revise the USLA textbook and broaden its scope. While Hall and his committee made many valuable revisions to the original text, they were stymied by lack of a publisher.

At the board of directors' meeting in November 1991, Bill Richardson of Huntington Beach, California was elected president. Soon after, he appointed B. Chris Brewster, chief of the San Diego Lifeguard Service, to head the USLA National Certification Committee. Richardson was eager to see USLA complete the work begun earlier on national guidelines and to develop and implement a national certification system.

While some were drawn to the concept of a standardized training program with a universally accepted course completion card, much like that available in the pool environment, others saw this as impractical considering the diversity of the natural aquatic environment and the many approaches to open water lifesaving in the United States. These issues defied a certification system whereby lifeguards from throughout the United States could be trained under a single rigid curriculum.

In finding a way around this problem, the committee took note of the fact that beach lifeguard organizations throughout America were already training their lifeguards locally, in many cases very effectively. They therefore resolved to create the equivalent of an accreditation system for the training programs of those agencies willing to meet recommended USLA standards.

In November of 1992, the committee completed work on the USLA Lifeguard Agency Certification Program. It was unanimously approved by the board of directors. Soon, beach lifeguard agencies from throughout the United States applied to have their programs nationally certified and agreed to abide by the USLA's minimum standards.

As the new program was being rolled out, it became evident that the need for a revised and modernized version of the USLA manual was more pressing than ever. Brewster volunteered to turn his attention to this effort. He was able to locate a publisher and convened a National Textbook Committee. The committee members agreed to gather as a working group representing seven of the eight USLA regions, to revise and rewrite the previous drafts. For five days in February 1994, they holed up in a hotel near the Chicago airport. The committee included:

Don Rohrer, Los Angeles County
Jerry Gavin, Chicago
Dan McCormick, East Bay Regional Park District (California)
David Shotwell, Ocean Grove, New Jersey
Dr. Peter Wernicki, USLA Medical Advisor
Mike Hensler, Volusia County, Florida
Bill McNeely, St. Lucie County, Florida
Kim Tyson, University of Texas at Austin
Carl Martinez, National Park Service



USLA 2014 Spring Board of Directors Meeting and Educational Conference

HISTORY

United States Lifesaving Association is Born – *Continued*

In early 1995, after much work on the part of the many volunteers, *The United States Lifesaving Association Manual of Open Water Lifesaving* was published. It quickly became a mainstay for training beach lifeguards in agencies which subscribed to USLA guidelines, as well as for many other lifesaving providers throughout the United States and around the world. The manual was revised and published in 2003 under a new title, *Open Water Lifesaving - The United States Lifesaving Association Manual*.

There are now more than 100 chapters of USLA, each affiliated with local lifesaving services and beach patrols, and composed of employees of those organizations. The chapters form regions, of which there are eight. Each USLA region has a president and its own board of directors.

The National Board of Directors of USLA is made up of delegates sent by the regions to biannual board of directors meetings. Within certain guidelines, regional representation on the board of directors is proportional to regional membership levels. The national president and other officers are elected every two years.

Throughout its history, USLA has been an organization of lifeguards, for lifeguards. The work of the organization has been accomplished by dedicated members volunteering their time to improve upon their profession and the safety of the beach going public. That work continues today.

Past Presidents

Presidents and terms of office of USLA and its predecessors have included:

1963 – 1967	Bob Burnside	SLSA and NSLSA
1968 – 1969	Mike Henry	NSLSA
1970 – 1973	Phil Stubbs	NSLSA
1974 – 1975	Vince Moorhouse	NSLSA
1976 – 1977	Eric Lucas	NSLSA
1978 – 1979	Sheridan Byerly	NSLSA
1980 – 1981	Dick Miller	USLA
1982 – 1991	Joe Pecoraro	USLA
1992 – 1998	William Richardson	USLA
1998 - 2003	Don Rohrer	USLA
2003 - Present	B. Chris Brewster	USLA





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USLA Life Members

United States Lifesaving Association Life Members

Bruce Baird (Deceased) ~ Laguna Beach, California
Buddy Belshe (Deceased) ~ Newport Beach, California
Gene Bergman (Deceased) ~ Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Max Bowman ~ Huntington Beach, California
Reenie Boyer ~ Newport Beach, California
B. Chris Brewster ~ San Diego, California
Robert Burnside ~ Los Angeles County, California
Tom Daly ~ Long Beach, New York
Doug D'Arnall ~ Huntington Beach, California
Tim Dorsey ~ Seal Beach, California
Roger Engemann ~ Chicago, Illinois
Greg Farry (Deceased) ~ Bradley Beach, New Jersey
Tim Gallagher ~ Avon-by-the-Sea, New Jersey
Jerry Gavin ~ Chicago, Illinois
Ralph Goto ~ City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
Gordon Gray ~ Los Angeles County Lakes, California
Charlie Hartl ~ Avon-by-the-Sea, New Jersey
Jim Holland ~ Miami, Florida
Ed Kiziukiewicz ~ Ship Bottom, New Jersey
Howard Lee ~ Los Angeles County, California
James McCarthy (Deceased) ~ Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Jim McCloy (Deceased) ~ Galveston, Texas
Rob McGowan ~ Los Angeles County, California
Dr. Alfred W. (Bud) McKinley, PhD (Deceased) ~ Ocean City, New Jersey
Vic Maceo ~ Galveston, Texas
Bill McNeely ~ St. Lucie County, Florida
Jackie McShane (Deceased) ~ Chicago, Illinois
Dick Miller ~ Long Beach, California
Harry 'Buzz' Mogck ~ Cape May, New Jersey
Bob Moore ~ Los Angeles County, California
Joe Pecoraro ~ Chicago, Illinois
Tom Renick (Deceased) ~ Volusia County, Florida
Bill Richardson ~ Huntington Beach, California
Don Rohrer ~ Los Angeles County, California
Frank Russell (Deceased) ~ Jones Beach, New York
Dave Shotwell ~ Ocean Grove, New Jersey
Bud Stevenson (Deceased) ~ Los Angeles County, California
Ron Watson ~ Jacksonville, Florida
Peter Wernicki, MD ~ Spring Lake, New Jersey



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USLA Medal of Valor Recipients

United States Lifesaving Association Medal of Valor Recipients

Albers, Bob	1999	California State Parks, California
Alvarez, Willy	2006	Volusia, County, Florida
Bartlett, Mike	2005	Huntington Beach, California
Beuerlein, Mike	1989	Huntington Beach, California
Borland, Tim	2003	Avila Beach, California
Bradbury, Bouvey	2008	City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
Brown, Mark	2012	San Diego, California
Cicchetto, Sean	1996	San Diego, California
Coats, Eric	2006	Lake Perris, California
Corbo, Christian	1998	California State Parks, California
Culp, Casey	1998	Laguna Beach, California
Feighan, Mark	2010	San Diego, California
Fesler, Jeff	2003	Avila Beach, California
Gitelson, Joel	2006	Los Angeles County, California
Grigouli, Richard	2003	Oceano State Park, California
Grigsby, Scott	1994	Los Angeles County, California
Harris, Ed	1999	San Diego, California
Higa, Brian	2012	City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
Horn, Brit	2005	Sonoma Coast State Beach, California
James, Michael	2008	Destin, Florida
Kealana, Brian	1996	City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii
Korber, Paul	1998	Ventura County, California (Posthumous Award)
Larsen, Billy	2003	Pismo Beach, California
Leibig, Peter	2010	San Diego, California
McDonald, Daryl	2010	San Diego, California
Milligan, Joe	1989	California State Parks, California
Murphy, Tim	1996	California State Parks, California
Nowviski, Chris	2004	Daytona, Florida
Panis, Marc	1989	Huntington Beach, California
Pepper, Laine	1999	San Diego, California
Quigley, Patrick	1998	Laguna Beach, California
Quigley, Patrick	1999	Laguna Beach, California (Second Award)
Raines, Dave	1999	San Diego, California
Simmons, Jecoa	2004	Daytona Beach, Florida
Snow, Kevin	1998	Laguna Beach, California
Sproull, Mark	1998	Laguna Beach, California
Stephenson, Michael	1996	California State Parks, California
Stewart, Bradley	2009	South Walton Fire District, Florida
Tegland, Ormand	1998	Laguna Beach, California
Trager, Tom	1998	Laguna Beach, California
Vipond, Jon	2010	San Diego, California



USLA 2014 Spring Board of Directors

USLA Regional Map



New England

Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Vermont

Mid-Atlantic

Delaware
Maryland
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Virginia (except Virginia Beach)
Washington, DC
West Virginia

South Atlantic

Florida (*Duval & Nassau Counties Only*)
Georgia
North Carolina
South Carolina
Tennessee
Virginia (*Virginia Beach only*)

Southeast

Alabama
Florida (*Except Duval & Nassau Counties*)
Puerto Rico
US Virgin Islands

Gulf Coast

Arkansas
Louisiana
Mississippi
Oklahoma
Texas

Great Lakes

Illinois
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
South Dakota
Ohio
Wisconsin

Northwest

Alaska
California (*north of Santa Cruz, San Benito, Inyo and Fresno Counties*)
Colorado
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

Southwest

Arizona
California (*from Santa Cruz, San Benito, Inyo and Fresno Counties south*)
New Mexico

Pacific Islands

Hawaii
Guam
US Territory Islands