



California Surf Lifesaving Association

Southwest Region-United States Lifesaving Association

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World Wide Web: www.cslsa.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April 24, 2003

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Chris Graham
Executive Delegate
(Alternate)

I would like to start out dedicating this meeting in memory of Melissa Miller Jeffries, daughter of one of our founding fathers, Dick Miller, and wife of Grant Jeffries of the Long Beach Lifeguard Service. Melissa succumbed to cancer last week, and our prayers go out to her husband and her family. I wish to thank Api Weinert and the COLA Chapter for hosting this meeting.

The members of your Executive Board have been very busy since our last meeting in Del Mar. Our region is hosting the USLA Board of Directors Meeting next month in Hawaii, and the Executive Board has been meeting monthly to plan for that meeting. Chris Graham has done an outstanding job of coordinating and planning the meeting, and thanks to the generosity of Scott Hubbell of SHP, Inc., our regional fundraiser, and our other sponsors, the meeting should be a huge success without bankrupting our regional treasury. Thanks too to Ralph Goto and the Hawaiian Lifeguards. Without their help and support, the Hawaii meeting would not be possible. I hope a few of you have planned to attend the meeting and see what transpires at a USLA National meeting.

Your Executive Board has been working to bring our marketing contract with SHP, Inc. into conformance with the USLA by-laws. It is the opinion of the USLA legal advisor that the CSLSA, as a region of the USLA, did not have the authority to enter into an independent marketing agreement like the one we have with SHP without the consent of the national body. Bill Richardson has been working directly with SHP's attorney to resolve the contract issues in a manner that is acceptable to all parties concerned. We have also contacted another attorney and Bill worked with him to determine the CSLSA's rights in the contract matters. Furthermore, SHP is interested in entering into a marketing agreement with the entire USLA, so hopefully the issues can be resolved and we can move forward. It seems like a win-win situation for the USLA and SHP if logic and a spirit of compromise can prevail, but at this point in time, the issues remain unresolved.

We have continued to work with SHP to supplement our membership kits for the upcoming year. The USLA is providing us with T-shirts and sun care products from Panama Jack, and SHP will be supplying bags and visors courtesy of Arrowhead Spring Water. SHP will also be subsidizing our California Surf Lifesaving Championships, hosted again by Los Angeles County. This year the Junior Lifeguard Championships will be held at Dockweiler State Beach, on

Friday, July 25, followed by the California Surf Lifesaving Championships at Zuma Beach on Saturday, July 26

With the great membership kits we hope to increase our membership numbers over last years total of more than 1400 lifeguard members. I know the JG numbers will be up, because thanks to the efforts of Kyle Daniels and Bob Moore, the Los Angeles County JG's will include membership in the program registration fee. This alone will boost our JG membership by about 2000 members! Thanks to membership committee chairman Don Rohrer, and to Gordon Gray for once again volunteering to use his garage to warehouse and distribute the membership materials. We will be distributing some of the kit materials at the meeting today, but some may not arrive on time and will have to be shipped to the chapters. Please be sure that Don has a contact person and address from you chapter before you leave this meeting.

Although he will not be present at this meeting due to a conflict with the ILS Meeting in St. Lucia, Chris Brewster has continued to do a lot of work for the USLA. He has submitted a written report that will be distributed. Most significantly, Chris finished editing the second edition of the USLA textbook, *Open Water Lifesaving — The United States Lifesaving Association Manual*. The book is at the publishers now and I believe Chris said it should be out by early summer. There are a couple of items in his report that Chris has requested our support on. He also asked me to commend the volunteers from the San Diego Lifeguard Service who went to Bolivia to provide flood rescue training. The following is an excerpt from a report Chris wrote about the trip. "The team leader was Sgt. Albers, an 18-year lifeguard veteran and River Rescue Team Squad Leader. (Albers is a recipient of the United States Lifesaving Association Medal of Valor.) Retired Lt. Marshall Parks, a former River Rescue Team Leader and recipient of the 1999 Higgins and Langley Lifetime Achievement Award volunteered to go, as did Darrell Esparza, also a veteran lifeguard and 10 year River Rescue Team member. Marc Brown, a San Diego lifeguard for 10 years and a River Rescue Team member for two, was to be the fourth instructor. A fifth was also prepared to participate, but a last minute illness intervened. One challenge, particularly considering the highly technical nature of the instruction, involved the fact that very few in Bolivia speak English and none of the team members have strong Spanish skills. Mark Korch, a San Diego lifeguard with eight years of experience and strong Spanish skills stepped forward. Not surprisingly, his skills turned out to be critical to the expeditions success." The weeklong training was basically a train-the-trainer session for sixteen members of the Bolivian Air Force, two police officers, and two civic defense workers. The training team provided the equipment and left it for future use. The group has been nominated for a Higgins and Langley Memorial Award in the field of swift water rescue. On behalf of the CSLSA, I would like to commend these individuals for their volunteer efforts in lifesaving. Perhaps Marshall will give us a more in depth report.

Marshall has been working hard as your competition committee chairman. At the national level he has been heading up a sub committee to revise the officiating organization at Nationals. He is also a member of a sub committee that is looking

at the feasibility of changing the age groups to five-year increments, instead of the current ten year groups. Hopefully he will update us on his progress today.

Vince Lombardi and Eric Sandy continue to provide us with up to date and informative issues of *Cal Surf News*. We are hoping to have some advance copies of the next issue at our meeting today. Vince is also our Webmaster and Recurrent Representative. He has updated the test dates section of the website and continues to post upcoming events. A big thanks is due to Pat Francis for doing the continuing maintenance and upgrades to www.cslsa.org at a very reasonable rate.

Thanks also to Reenee Boyer and Rob Williams for their contributions by attending the monthly Executive Board meetings, and especially for hosting the last one at Newport. I'm sure they will be giving us an update on their committee's happenings. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to Mike Beuerlein, our secretary for keeping track of and recording everything we do (Minutes from past meetings are available in the "Events" section of the website), Treasurer Bob Moore for keeping track of our finances, and Executive Delegate extraordinaire and publisher of *American Lifeguard*, Mike Bartlett. Welcome to Ross Pounds and Terry Murphy, the new co-chairs of the Training Committee, who took over when Scott Diederich stepped down last October.

We will have several presentations today. The returning New Zealand exchange lifeguards, Lindsay Ortega from Huntington City, and Rebecca Levine of Huntington State will be covering the highlights of their trip to New Zealand last January, and we will be presenting heroic acts awards to Chris and Scott Bredesen, and Bill and Brad Davidson for their rescue of two ponga fishermen at k-38 in Baja California. Bill Humphreys will be showing us the scheduling program he created using Excel for the City of San Clemente Lifeguard Service. All and all, this should be a very informative and educational meeting.

Respectfully submitted



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President

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