

United States Lifesaving Association

Annual Report

July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006



A nonprofit, 501(c)3, public benefit corporation.

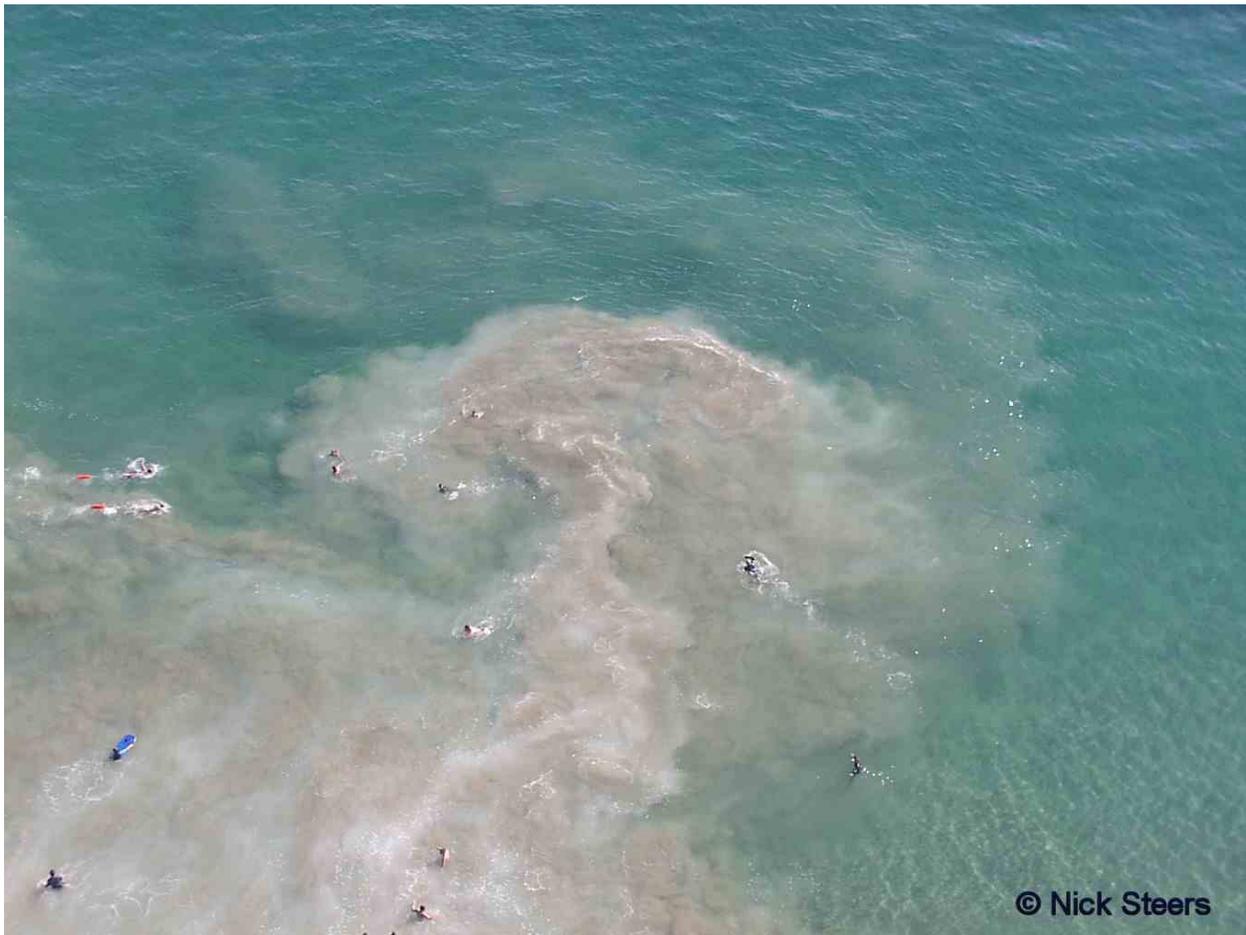


Lifeguards for Life

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United States Lifesaving Association
P.O. Box 366
Huntington Beach, California 92648
Phone: 1-888-FOR-USLA
Internet: www.usla.org

Our Organization

We are America's nonprofit, professional association of beach lifeguards and open water rescuers. We work to reduce the incidence of death and injury in the aquatic environment through public education, youth programs, national lifeguard standards, training programs, promotion of high levels of lifeguard readiness, and other means. USLA is recognized as a nonprofit, charitable organization under the laws of the United States. USLA is the United States' Full Member federation of the International Life Saving Federation.



Our President's Message



We are an all-volunteer group of lifesavers, dedicating our time to promoting professionalism in lifesaving and drowning prevention. Whether we face east, west, north or south, we are all intent on the same goal, which is to ensure the safety of the throngs of beachgoers we watch over. We have an enviable record. On average, there is a single drowning death in a guarded area for every 18 million visits to the beaches we oversee. A patron visiting our beaches is probably more likely

to be struck by lightning or die in a car accident than to have a fatal mishap in the waters we watch over.

Many important accomplishments have been achieved this year, some of which are a part of this report. I offer here just three examples:

Lifesaving Research: The USLA has teamed with the American Red Cross and the YMCA of the USA to conduct research to identify the best, evidence-based lifeguard practices. How long should a lifeguard watch the water without a break? What are the best methods for scanning? We intend to find answers to these and many other questions by employing rigid scientific methodology.

Public Education: The USLA has teamed with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including the National Weather Service and Sea Grant, to educate the public about water safety. Our highly successful rip current education program has already had a major impact, with signs posted and brochures distributed nationwide, but there is much more to come. We intend to create modules and media to help chapters and lifesaving agencies with curricula for local public education efforts aimed at schools and public groups.

International Aid: A number of USLA members have long been involved in helping develop lifesaving in Mexico. That has culminated in the creation of the Mexican Lifesaving Association and their approval to the International Life Saving Federation, standing side-by-side with the USLA on the international lifesaving scene. Meantime, our members have conducted training and liaison with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Venezuela, to name a few countries.

My thanks to all of the hard-working volunteers who comprise our organization, from coast to coast and throughout the islands. The USLA was founded to reduce death and injury in the aquatic environment through public education, national lifeguard standards, training programs, and promotion of high levels of lifeguard readiness. Year upon year, we have achieved the goals of our founders and we continue to build upon that record.

Lifesaving Aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Chris Brewster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

B. Chris Brewster
President
president@usla.org

Our Membership

USLA's regular membership includes over 4,000 people currently active in open water rescue nationwide. "Open water" means the natural aquatic environment. USLA's membership also includes over 8,500 junior lifeguards participating in youth programs sponsored by lifeguard agencies throughout the United States. In addition to these members, USLA's membership includes Alumni Members (former lifeguards), Associate Members (any person wishing to affiliate with and support USLA), and Life Members (specially selected by the Board of Directors based on lifetime contributions to USLA).



Our Chapters

USLA members affiliate locally in chapters, which are normally composed of open water rescuers who work for a designated employer or employers, or who work within a designated geographic area. USLA has 120 chapters throughout the USA.



Our Regions

USLA is organized in nine regions of the United States. Each region is expected to provide leadership to the chapters within the region and to designate representatives to the United States Lifesaving Association Board of Directors. Regional contacts can be found at www.usla.org.



Our National Leadership

Executive Board

USLA's National Executive Board is elected for two year terms, in November of odd numbered years. Regularly scheduled elections next occur in November 2007. An updated list and contact information can be found at: www.usla.org. As of June 30, 2006, members of the Executive Board are as follows.

B. Chris Brewster	President
Jerry Gavin	Vice-President
Greg Farry	Treasurer
Nikki Bowie	Secretary
Peter Davis	Liaison Officer
Chris Graham	Executive Delegate
Tim Gallagher	Advisor

Executive Committee

Between meetings of the Board of Directors, the USLA Executive Committee acts for the Board of Directors with regards to most matters that would otherwise require a vote of the Board of Directors. As of June 30, 2006, the Executive Committee includes the Executive Board and the elected Presidents of the Regions. The Presidents are:

Ed Zebrowski	Mid-Atlantic
Kevin Sweat	South Atlantic
Jim McCrady	Southeast
Joe Pecoraro	Great Lakes
Vic Maceo	Gulf Coast
Cathy VonWald	Northwest
Rob McGowan	Southwest
Ralph Goto	Pacific Islands

Advisors

USLA benefits greatly by the insights and expertise of advisors who provide advice to the Executive Board, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors in their specialty areas:

Dr. Peter Wernicki, M.D.	Medical Advisor
John "Chip" More	Legal Advisor

Our Board of Directors

Members of USLA's Board of Directors are appointed by USLA Regions in a number proportional to membership, according to a formula embodied in our Bylaws. The Board of Directors is USLA's highest authority. The Board of Directors meets twice each year, normally in April and November. During fiscal 2006, the Board of Directors met from November 3 – 5, 2005 in Dana Point, California and from April 27 - 29, 2006 in Annapolis, Maryland. USLA Directors have no fixed term. Their length of service is decided by their appointing Regions. At the close of our 2006 fiscal year, USLA's Directors are:

Mid-Atlantic

Ed Zebrowski
Tim Gallagher
Tim Ferry
Dave Foxwell
Charles Hartl
Bart Mattaliano
Buzz Mogck

South Atlantic

Kevin Sweat
Tom Gill
Adrienne Groh
Duke Brown
Mike Hensler
Paul Pivec
Ron Watson

Southeast

Jim McCrady
Gerry Falconer
Don May
Patrick McGlammery

Great Lakes

Joe Pecoraro
Andrew Braudy
Jerry Gavin

Gulf Coast

Vic Maceo
Peter Davis

Northwest

Cathy VonWald
Nick Shriver
Bert Whitaker

Southwest

Rob McGowan
Charlotte Graham
Mike Beuerlein
Rob Williams
Robert Moore
Chris Graham
Mike Bartlett

Pacific Islands

Ralph Goto
Jimmy Barros



Our Committees

USLA Committees convene at each biannual meeting of the Board of Directors and work on projects between meetings. Committees conduct in-depth work on topics specific to their area of expertise. There are two types of committees. Regular Committees include a representative from each Region, appointed by the Region. Working Group Committees typically include a lesser number of members and have a more focused assignment. At each Board of Directors meeting, Committees report to the Board of Directors on their activities since the prior meeting, then meet and report back on their actions and proposals. At the end of the 2006 fiscal year, the following were USLA's Committees and their Chairs. Contact information for each can be found at www.usla.org.

Regular Committees

Certification	Chair – Eric Bauer Vice-Chair – Tim Harmon
Competition	Chair – Ed Zebrowski Vice-Chair – Kevin Sweat
Heroic Acts	Chair – Adrienne Groh
Junior Lifeguards	Chair – Reenie Boyer
Membership	Chair – Charles Hartl
Public Education	Chair – Rob Williams
Ways and Means	Chair – Greg Farry

Working Group Committees

Bylaws/Policies and Procedures	Chair – John “Chip” More
Development	Chair – Cathy VonWald
Equipment Research	Chair – Dave Foxwell
Grant Writing	Chair – Jim McCrady
Magazine Publication	Chair – Mike Bartlett
National Curriculum	Chair – Carl Martinez
Public Information/Publicity	Chair – Tom Gill
Signage	Chair – Ralph Goto
Statistics	Chair – Rick Gould
Website	Chair – Charlie Hartl

Our Accomplishments

United States Lifesaving Foundation Created

USLA approved the creation of the United States Lifesaving Foundation, an invested endowment, the proceeds of which will benefit USLA. The USLF has been incorporated and has applied for 501(c)3 status.

LOU with American Red Cross and YMCA of the USA

USLA formalized its ongoing collaborative relationship with the American Red Cross and the YMCA of the USA with a letter of agreement. The Lifeguard Standards Coalition is intending, within the next year, to conduct an evidence-based review of outstanding questions with respect to lifeguarding and water safety, with the intention of improving the quality of lifeguard services nationwide.

Bylaws Updated

USLA conducted a comprehensive review and revision of our Bylaws.

Website Additions

USLA's website, www.usla.org, was updated this year to include listing of Heroic Act awards, information on employment of foreign lifeguards, additional public safety materials for no-cost reproduction, as well as games and related materials aimed at youth, including junior lifeguards.

National Rip Current Education Program

USLA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) renewed and expanded efforts to educate the public on rip currents and water safety. Several new initiatives have been identified and work is underway.



National Beach Safety Week

National Beach Safety Week was launched on May 20, 2006. National Beach Safety Week is an annual event promoted by USLA, commencing just as summer is about to

begin, to remind the general public about hazards in the aquatic environment and how to stay safe.

Educational Conferences – Selected Topics

November 4, 2005

A representative of Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, California presented information on cervical injuries related to surf injuries, their prevention and treatment.

Representatives of a predominately lifeguard composed flood rescue team from San Diego provided an overview of lessons learned from their deployment to the Hurricane Katrina disaster and how lifeguard agencies can be involved in the nation's preparedness for similar events.

April 28, 2006

Major Peter Chambers, PhD, DO/MC presented information on hyperthermia, its indicators, prevention and treatment.

Dr. Douglas A Ehrhardt, Deputy Director, CDHAM, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, US Department of Defense provided a presentation on the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine Program (CDHAM) and related opportunities for involved by USLA.

Representatives of the US Public Health Service, Delaware State Police Aviation Division, Dewey Beach Patrol and Delaware Beach Patrol presented a model program for federal, state and local cooperation in lifesaving, civil defense and homeland security involving a collaboration of existing aquatic rescue and aeronautic resources.

Lifesaving Competition

In an ongoing effort to promote physical fitness and preparedness among lifeguards, United States Lifesaving Association Regions conducted seven regional lifesaving competitions; and Virginia Beach, Virginia hosted the 2005 National Lifeguard Championships in August 2005. Participation by lifeguards and junior lifeguards exceeded 1,000.

The US National Team traveled to Australia to represent the United States of America at the World Lifesaving Championships – Rescue 2006.

Junior Lifeguards

A directory of junior lifeguard programs was developed.

Public Safety Lectures

In calendar year 2005, USLA chapters and affiliated agencies reported the provision of 7,348 public safety lectures to an estimated audience of 300,045.

Lifeguard Agency Certification

Since the 1980s, USLA has maintained standards for lifeguard agencies providing public safety at America's beaches, promulgated and updated training protocols, and offered training manuals and standards. Since the early 1990s, USLA has certified lifeguard agencies which apply for certification and show that they meet the standards. These actions help ensure appropriate levels of public safety at America's beaches and the safety of the lifeguards who provide that safety. Over 80 lifeguard agencies are certified under this program, with each agency certified for a three year period, then applying for recertification.

USLA Maintains Affiliation with Combined Federal Campaign

USLA has maintained its affiliation with the Combined Federal Campaign of giving U.S. federal employees. Inclusion required an advance level financial audit, submission of an extensive application, and approval at the federal level. U.S. federal employees can thereby donate to USLA via payroll deduction.

International Contributions



USLA is America's Full Member representative to the International Life Saving Federation. USLA's President is also President for the America's Region of ILS. During this fiscal year, the following USLA representatives served on the international level: B. Chris Brewster – Lifesaving Commissioner; Dr. Peter Wernicki – Co-Chair, Medical Committee; Peter Davis – Americas Region representative to the Development Committee; Ralph Goto – Rescue Committee; Charles Hartl – Event Management Committee; and Tom Daly – Sport Development Committee. Our support for ILS helps USLA share expertise worldwide, promoting development and professionalizing of lifesaving and drowning prevention.

Lifesaving Development Activity

USLA and its members contributed to the development of lifesaving, both in the United States and other countries. Efforts to promote lifesaving in Mexico have continued, with several members and affiliated organizations providing training and support. During this fiscal year, the Mexican Lifesaving Association became a Full Member of the

International Life Saving Federation. We have also maintained contact and provided support to lifesaving efforts in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Venezuela.

Lifesaving Statistics

USLA continued its service of gathering and presenting annual statistics from beach lifesaving organizations throughout the United States in a free, online database that allows a variety of search methods. For calendar year 2005, over 52,000 rescues from drowning were reported, along with myriad additional information. Based on this information, USLA has calculated the chance that a person will die by drowning while attending a beach protected by USLA affiliated lifeguards at 1 in 18 million (.0000055%). This is based on the last ten years of reports from USLA affiliated lifeguard agencies, comparing estimated beach attendance to the number of drowning deaths in areas under lifeguard protection. Details are available at: <http://www.usla.org/Statistics/public.asp>

Our Special Awards

Life Members

USLA confers Life Memberships on a very limited number of people who have made extraordinary contributions to lifesaving and to USLA. The minimum criteria for Life Membership includes twenty years of service in open water lifesaving, ten years active service and membership in USLA, service as a member of the Board of Directors or as an elected national officer, and a significant contribution to the humanitarian goals and objectives of USLA. During fiscal 2005, one Life Membership was awarded. We congratulate the recipient and thank him for his extraordinary service.

Jerry Gavin	Chicago, Illinois
Rob McGowan	Los Angeles, California
Buzz Mogck	Cape May, New Jersey

Heroic Act Awards

USLA annually confers recognition to people who demonstrate unusual heroism in rescuing others. USLA recognition is restricted to acts which show conclusive evidence that the person performing the act voluntarily risked their own life to an extraordinary degree in saving, or attempting to save, the life of another person, or voluntarily sacrificed themselves in a heroic manner for the benefit of others. To be considered for recognition, heroic acts must be reported to USLA within one year of the date they occurred. Usually, only those acts performed in areas within the scope of USLA's activities will be considered for such an award. Awards are restricted to cases in which no primary family relationship exists. The Medal of Valor is awarded to an individual lifeguard who voluntarily risked their life, to an extraordinary degree, in saving, or attempting to save another person, or who sacrificed themselves for the benefit of others. The Heroic Act Award is presented by USLA to a non-lifeguard and is intended to give due recognition to those who have risked their lives to an extraordinary degree in a rescue or attempted rescue of another person. We congratulate the following recipients and tip our hat to them.

Medal of Valor

Brit Horn
Eric Coates
Mike Bartlett

Heroic Act

Mackenzie Lothian
Gary Wise
Thorpe Logemann

Our Financials

USLA, a nonprofit, 501(c)3, public benefit corporation, remains in firm financial condition, with our strength slowly growing, although greater financial support is definitely desirable. Our primary source of income is member dues. The increased interest in junior lifeguard membership has been of particular assistance over the past year. We continue to work toward improving the contributions from sponsors and grant funds. In presenting our financial information, it is important to note that all of the substantial work provided by USLA's officers and committee members is on a volunteer basis.

USLA requested and received a full financial audit for fiscal 2006 by a certified public accountant. According to the accountant, "In my opinion, the financial statements ... present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of United States Lifesaving Association, Inc. as of June 30, 2006, and the changes in its net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." The following is an abbreviated overview of our financials. A full copy of our financial statements and federal tax return is available upon request to treasurer@usla.org.

Revenues and Gains	
Contributions	\$8,190
Sponsors	\$14,298
National Championships	\$9,896
Advertising and Subscriptions	\$14,150
Royalties	\$3,646
Program Service Fees	\$9,750
Membership Dues	\$135,570
Investment Income	\$1,737
Marketing Agreements	<u>\$8,747</u>
Total	\$205,984
Expenses	
Program Services	\$203,087
Management and General	\$13,780
Fundraising	<u>\$5,710</u>
Total	<u>\$222,577</u>
Revenues Over Expenses	(\$16,594)

Assets	\$98,922
Liabilities	<u>(\$32,959)</u>
Net Assets	\$65,963

Swim Near a Lifeguard