



News Release

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SLA Elects 2020 Board of Directors

SAN RAMON, CA—The members of the Surplus Line Association of California (SLA) have elected **Terri Moran** of Paul Hanson Partners as chair of the SLA Board of Directors. Moran's election became official at the SLA Annual Meeting, which took place Feb. 4 and Feb. 6, in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Also elected to leadership were **Janet Beaver** of Tokio Marine-HCC Casualty as vice chair, and **Rich Gobler** of Burns & Wilcox, who is the new secretary/treasurer. Outgoing chair **Robert Gilbert** of Markel West Insurance Services remains on the board as past chair, after two years as chair.

Additionally, voters approved the Nominating Committee's proposed slate for the entire 13-member board. **Jason Howard** of CRC was elected as a new member.

Completing the 13-member board are the following individuals who also served in 2019:

- **Tim Chaix**, R.E. Chaix and Associates
- **Jim Faley**, Vela Insurance Services
- **Hank Haldeman**, Worldwide Facilities, LLC
- **Pam Quilici**, Crouse & Associates Insurance Services of Northern California, Inc.
- **Charlie Rosson**, R-T Specialty
- **Kathy Schroeder**, Sierra Specialty Insurance Services, Inc.
- **Terrence Villar**, AmWINS
- **John Washington**, Arch Insurance Group

Additionally, SLA members reelected the Honorable **Harry Low**, a former insurance commissioner and retired presiding justice of the California Court of Appeal, as mediator.

Moran says she relishes the opportunity to lead the association for the next two years.

"The booming surplus lines market has given the SLA an opportunity to make some very important moves that will ensure its fiscal health for many years to come," Moran said. "I look forward to our effort over the next two years to retire the association's multimillion-dollar pension liability and the construction loans that were necessary when the SLA moved its headquarters out of San Francisco as a cost-control measure. We also have a chance to shore up the SLA's contingency funds so that the

association will continue to be able to serve its members and the public when the boom times inevitably end. While we hope to see continued growth, we understand that what goes up must come down at some point, and we intend to be well-prepared if and when that happens.”

Moran also wants the SLA to continue its outreach to promising young professionals through its new internship program, created in 2019, and by continuing to provide and enhance its offerings of career resources for prospective surplus lines professionals. She credits Gilbert, the previous chair, for his accomplishments during his tenure and for his mentorship and advice.

“Bob has left the SLA in a much better position than he found it, with the creation of an online Learning Center and increased availability of continuing education courses to surplus lines professionals outside of San Francisco and Los Angeles,” Moran said. “He also has done a tremendous job preparing me to take over as chair, and I will always be grateful for everything he has done for the SLA, the surplus lines community, and me personally.”

“Terri is going to do a great job,” Gilbert said. “She’s an extremely smart, conscientious person, and I have no doubt that she is going to continue to build on the progress the SLA made during my tenure and the tenures of all the chairs who came before me. We couldn’t be in better hands.”

ABOUT THE SLA: Headquartered in San Ramon, with offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles, the Surplus Line Association of California (SLA) operates as a self-governed private organization. Appointed by the Commissioner in 1994, the Association serves as the statutory surplus line advisory organization to the California Department of Insurance (CDI) and facilitates the state’s capacity to monitor and direct surplus line brokers’ placements of insurance with eligible surplus line insurers. Working with its members and the CDI, the Association assists its members’ compliance with California laws and regulations; helps maintain a healthy, fair, and competitive surplus line marketplace in California; and strives to protect the interests of California insurance consumers.

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