



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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SLA Formally Elects 2022 Board of Directors

Janet Beaver takes the helm as chair; Rich Gobler and John Washington elected to leadership team; Sarah Nichols becomes newest board member

SAN RAMON, CA—The members of the Surplus Line Association of California (SLA) have elected **Janet Beaver** as chair of the SLA Board of Directors. Eligible members of the SLA elected her via an electronic vote taken prior to the SLA's virtual Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

Beaver is the incoming executive vice president with Aurenity, a new, tech-enabled managing general agent (MGA) company in the surplus lines space.

Also elected to leadership were **Rich Gobler** of Burns and Wilcox as vice chair, and **John Washington** of Arch Insurance Group as secretary/treasurer.

Terri Moran of Paul Hanson Partners remains on the board in the position of past chair after completing her two-year tenure as chair.

The leadership team is elected for a two-year term.

Additionally, voters approved the Nominating Committee's proposed slate for the entire 13-member board. One new member won election to the board this year: **Sarah Nichols** of Crum and Forster Insurance Brokers, Inc.

Completing the 13-member board are the following individuals who also served in 2021:

- **Tim Chaix**, R.E. Chaix and Associates
- **James Faley**, Vela Insurance Services
- **Robert Gilbert**, Markel Corp.
- **Hank Haldeman**, AmWINS
- **Pam Quilici**, Crouse & Associates Insurance Services of Northern California, Inc.
- **Charles Rosson**, USI Insurance Services

- **Kathy Schroeder**, Sierra Specialty Insurance Services, Inc.
- **Terrence Villar**, AmWINS

Also, **Jerry Sullivan** of GJS Re, a longtime board member and two-time former SLA chair, remains deeply involved with the board as its member emeritus, bringing his many years of knowledge and experience to the board's discussions and deliberations.

"I am very pleased to congratulate our new leadership team and all members of the Board of Directors on their election," said **Benjamin J. McKay**, the SLA's CEO and Executive Director. "We are very fortunate to have this talented group of industry experts guiding our course as we work toward fostering a healthy, fair and competitive surplus lines insurance marketplace in California."

McKay also gave a nod to the leadership team and the continued involvement of several board members who once served as chair, providing continuity as well as valuable institutional and industry knowledge. Former board chairs serving as members in 2022 include **Terri Moran**, **Robert Gilbert**, **Pam Quilici** and **Hank Haldeman** as elected members, and **Jerry Sullivan** as member emeritus.

"**Janet Beaver** is one of the California surplus line industry's most dynamic and respected leaders, and I look forward to working with her as chair. She inherits a strong foundation from her predecessor, **Terri Moran**, one of the wisest and most compassionate industry leaders I have had the opportunity to work with. Additionally, Janet's leadership team colleagues, **Rich Gobler** and **John Washington**, are among the smartest and most insightful people in our business. And with no fewer than five former board chairs continuing their involvement with the board, we have a wealth of leadership talent to guide the decisions of a growing industry."

All individuals elected to the 2022 board will serve until balloting is completed following the next SLA Annual Meeting in February 2023.

ABOUT THE SLA: Based in San Ramon and San Francisco, 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 nonadmitted 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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