

## **Bea's Convention Report Orlando, Sept 14-19, 2004**

Hurricane Frances edged west enough for our flights to get through as scheduled. Check-in at the hotel was tiresome, with picture Id. having to be produced, a quick phone call to Barry to arrange a faxed form containing our listed names [repeating the original letter] and HIS signature and Id. to authorize use of the Metro credit card.

Registered for Convention and got credentials. Had time for a pricey sandwich and attended the **Awards meeting**. It was announced that the Board approved the budget so the Committee's budget was OK, just has to pass the House. Discussion on the design for the new National Champs. and Junior Champs. medals. They return to the circular shape with an eagle in the center, as in the Corporate logo. Discussion on the possible reunion of former recipients of the USA Swimming Award. When? - Fri. evening after the HoD; where? - private reception after they are announced to the HoD; How? - fund from Presidential contingency \$ or seek a variance. Discussion of nominees for the Women in Sports Foundation Award nominees - one who was nominated had already received it! Will try to get an up-to-date listing of recipients and nominees on the 'holding list'. Have changed the reference years for 'Pioneer' and 'Contemporary'. Discussion of proposal for an 'Outreach Committee Award' - the criteria were felt to be much too broad/vague. Committee nominated Michael Phelps for the Jack Kelly Fair Play Award. The Scholastic All American report included that 479 of 482 Female, and 289 of 301 Male applicants were accepted. [*Metro needs to publicize our kids who won!*] Other new - proposal for the Don Gambriel Award - to recognize swimmers from previous years who swam Olympic Relays in Prelims only, so didn't get a medal. Some sort of certificate.

Supper off campus with Dale Petranech - encountered Ryan Emanuel who had walked with Anthony in search of less expensive food. Later spoke with Masters OW reps on our bids for 2006. Still checking on Frances to make sure she's not going to double back on us.

**Wed. 15<sup>th</sup>** - Started day early with 05:45 ride on bus to Aquatic Center as accompanying coach. Sprint thru continental breakfast line, check e-mails and off to a bit of **Board of Directors**. Then on to **Officials** - among announcements: John Kinney would be heading up the Open Water Officiating clinic later today; Burning Issues would be at 7:00PM; a Masters member announced that the FINA Masters World Championships will be in the USA in August of 2006 and they would love to have Officials come and help out; listed officials who went to international meets this year, including Carol Zaleski, Pat Lunsford and Wells O'Brien to the Olympics and that Pat was back there for the Paralympics. Wells spoke from the viewpoint of a deck official; Carol from the Admin. side. Many officials have been moved up in certification; Trials had a unique uniform to accommodate TV; reminder that officials are all part of a *team*, even beyond meets. Committee is working on a program to require officials with National or National Championship certs. to serve as mentors at local meets. The program is still being worked on. There will be an Officials' Chairs meeting in '05.

**Officials program reports - JR Pooler on "Building the Base"** Georgia has developed a home schooling CD and packet; National is in the process of adopting something similar. Developing a recruiting CD. The existing 2 videos have been put together on a DVD. Next objective is to have a program for advancement by gathering new materials, updating old ones and working on getting them to officials. Will produce a CD with all the forms that are on the web site. Have rewritten the Chief Judge's responsibilities. Developing information on 'how to start a swimmer with a disability' - *at this point, first Bea, then Julie Bare of Erie, got up and spoke strongly about how it's no different!*

**Joel Black on "Promoting the Sport"** have developed a 'universal' stroke briefing to cover the differences/similarities in USA Swim, HS Federation and NCAA/YMCA, and it's on the web. Have developed template for a 'proof-of-work' card. Are addressing insurance issues in order to cross over between USA Swim and Masters. Are attempting to develop a combined database in order to share information.

**Dan McCallum on recertification** - work in progress with a roll-out target of after Spring Nationals. Need meaningful criteria, the current ones are not adequate, particularly with Sectionals. Main thrust is to elimi-

nate people who do National Championship meets and don't educate/mentor on the local level. Thinking in terms of three levels (see white sheet). In answer to a question, there would be an appeals process if there is a negative recommendation from the local level.

**“Lunch” meeting of Adapted Comm.** - Established the three aspects of ‘inclusion’ to present at workshop - athlete, coach and club. Bea will be on the panel covering coach and official. Travis won the Trischa Zorn Award again, will try to find member of his LSC to accept.

**Open Water Officials clinic** - glitches included: no projector, battery in lap top died; presenters had very limited experience OW NC as far as I could tell. They pointed out that this is a beginning and are very willing to have help from others in putting together training for other officials. Many remarks and suggestions were given by several of us in attendance.

**Records** - Always scheduled as a short meeting, this was no exception. Since a new American records Coordinator has not yet been appointed following Martha McKee's death over a year ago, only the Disability records portion was held. There were 47 SCY, 15 SCM, 156 LCM records set since last year's Convention. On Saturday of this week, our team starts competing in Athens at the Paralympics and it is expected that several American records will be set.

**Safety workshop** - The featured speaker was retired from 38 years as the director of safety for Disney. He, along with a drawing for an AED from Welch/Allyn, drew a big crowd for the workshop. He gave an excellent power point presentation on Basic Aquatic Safety that he has given to many other concerned professional organizations. Although he was ‘preaching to the choir’, he pointed out that any time one attends a program such as his, one should come away having learned at least six new things. Among the ones I jotted down: Disney has the 5<sup>th</sup> largest navy in the world (in number of vessels, not total tonnage.); Never expect instruction to eliminate the risk of drowning; swimmers in flotation devices need to be supervised even MORE closely; never trust pool covers, they can become a trap; keep tables & chairs away from fences and gates; a mixture of 50% alcohol and 50% boric acid solution placed in each ear for five minutes after swimming can prevent infection without removing the important wax protection the ear needs; NEVER allow the breath-holding game; keep/take toys out of the pool when they are not in use. [I will provide a copy of the presentation outline.] The second hour was devoted to the insurance side of risk management, with presentations by Sandi Blumit with an overview of coverages provided by USA Swimming, then Eric Peterson went through the claims procedure. **It cannot be stressed enough how important it is to file an incident report.** This sets in motion the steps that lead to payment for injury/sudden illness of a covered person. Once the form arrives at headquarters, registration of the party is checked (if applicable), and a claim form is sent. That way the wheels are set in motion. If a claim is made with no Incident Report having been filed, the process is delayed. Carol Burch then went over what is available on the web site, including the ability to request “Additional Insured” Certificates through ‘*CertificatesNow*’ directly, 24/7 and receive them immediately. A club must be a current member in good standing. Information is available by going to <[www.confirmnet.com](http://www.confirmnet.com)> or the Confirmnet link under Insurance/Risk Management on the USA Swimming site. Sandi then went over the various optional coverages available through USA Swimming, including Directors and Officers; Crime Coverage; International Group Accident and Special Activities.

After a quick supper with Mary Ann & Gil, attended **Officials’ “Burning Issues”**- a forum. A discussion was held on permitting a swimmer to return to competition after illness/injury. Many are reluctant to permit without a physician's written permission and that was the consensus at the meeting. A lot of time was devoted to discussion of the program to have NC and NCC officials serve in their LSC's at meets and as mentors, in order to maintain their certifications. A brief discussion was held on Open Water topics.

**Thursday** Breakfast, e-mail checks and then **Eastern Zone** meeting. I will not repeat the reports of others. Highlights - The dues will stay at \$125/LSC, Isabel is willing to bill Treasurers in the Fall. Recognizing the high pool rental fees in the Zone, a five-member committee will look into what the fees are at desirable pools and report by 12/1/04 in order to put forth a ‘Site Selection’ list of preferred sites for Zones and Sectionals, bearing in mind that Sectionals are at least partly funded by National.

**Rules & Regulations** - sat in on most of this session, primary debate was on Background checks for coaches. Massaged several other proposals for final presentation to HoD.

**Adapted Committee Workshop** - The theme was overcoming roadblocks and featured a panel consisting of two coaches, three athletes and two officials. All told how they have determined roadblocks to participation in practices or competition and how they have dealt with them. In the main, barriers were a lot less of a problem than might have been perceived. In most cases they either weren't really barriers or were easily dealt with. It was pointed out that swimmers who are deaf or hard of hearing benefit from learning to watch for the strobe or its reflection on the water far better than having hand signals. The presentations and Q & A sessions after each were informative and lively. The time went by much too quickly. Are going to revive "Just Add Water" flyer

Rushed to attend the **Masters Open Water bid meeting** - We had bid to host either the 5k or 10k in 2006. Either one would have been "out of area", and it turned out that bidders within the prescribed areas had come forward to bid, so they won. This meeting ran late, making me late for the -

**Championship Coordination Committee meeting** - which in turn had run short. I was able to give a copy of my written report to Dean Ekeren to include in the records of the meeting.

Next attended the **Meet the Candidates panel** - those who were running unopposed were given 4 minutes each to speak about their thoughts on the next two years. Jeff Gudrun set a record with his "Thank you for the opportunity to serve" speech. Then the remaining candidates were each given four minutes for a preliminary statement, to be followed by questions directed to them from the floor by way of submitted cards.

We went to our rooms to drop off all our accumulated 'stuff' and get ready for the **Welcoming Reception**. A pretty good spread of goodies was on hand, including roast beef carvery, stir fry, and 'build your own Sundae.' A lot of socialization with new and old friends took place.

Friday - started with the 05:45 bus to the Aquatic Center again. Rush through the Continental Breakfast line and at 08:00 on to the **Program Operations Meeting** - Gave the Adapted Records report once again. At the same time, had to put in an appearance at the **National Board of Review Certification Meeting** in order to maintain membership. Both meetings were scheduled to end at 09:50, so had to skip out in order to attend the **Adapted Committee Meeting** at 09:00. Arrived just in time to give Records Report (again) and make comments. Pam Redding being in Athens, Bea also went over the progress on changes to the web page, including histories 'Progressions' in all strokes/distances/courses added to where the records are found. On Safety issues, Mary Kramer and Kiko will continue to work on their combined "Helpful Hints" (for Coaches/Clubs) as well as "And Safety Concerns". A copy of their work so far was given out. Zack (athlete) and Annelise will work on updating, if necessary, the "Just Add Water" flyer. Lists of willing mentors will be developed - Jack Dowling for officials and Pam will be asked to do one for coaches.

Sarah Ely presented a proposal for a developmental disability camp to be held after the 2005 Championships, on June 11-13 in Minneapolis. It is geared for 14 (fourteen) athletes, preferably between 13-18 years old. Each swimmer will have the opportunity to have his/her coach too. Applications and selection criteria to be available in January 2005. The Committee endorsed the idea and will present it to the Board of Directors with a request for a budget variance.

It is proposed to add a novice portion to the Championship meet. 50's and 100's of the strokes would be offered; events interspersed with the championship events; no qualifying times; timed finals; swimmers divided into Junior and Open divisions - Junior being 11-18; swimmer permitted in only one div'n.; give awards 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> in the AM if time allows; Time Trials available to Open div'n. only; # of events/day = 3. Since Program Operations now has responsibility for the Championships, this could be the beginning of a meet that would build the base of swimmers. The current number of elite swimmers will decrease and, therefore lower the attendance at the championships if we don't attract new swimmers.

Mary and Julie will continue to come up with some criteria for 'new' classifications for swimmers who fall thru the IPC cracks - such as swimmers who have Autism. These would be for internal, US purposes only.

Zack pointed out that the medals for the Championships do not seem very impressive. We will look into this. Does anyone know the status of the December meet? Is it sanctioned, and therefore officials and athletes can be covered by insurance? Also, there is a two day meet coming up in November in California, do we have any info on it? Believe Don Watkins is running it.

Dates of note: June 9-11, 2005 = Championships: for 2006, Fed'l Way is trying for later dates in June: Camp (if held) June 11-13: *possible dates* Feb. 5-6 for mid-year meeting at O'Hare.

**Committee Chairs Luncheon** - The annual "Thank You" for these volunteers is well received by all. A brief opportunity to chat and exchange ideas. The President always has nice words of praise and thanks.

Sat in on the **Open Water Committee meeting** - and the big topic was in response to remarks by Mike Saltzstein that the Board feels there has not been adequate reporting of activities and plans for the future. Many members were visibly upset and quite sharp in their remarks pointing out the reports of meets and camps that have been submitted and the five year and ten year plans that were submitted AND approved by the Board of the time. Diane Limerick gave vent on not being contacted in timely fashion to go on trips as a Manager and how HQ seems not to be able to keep track of the Trainer's Kit that she assembled the first time more than twenty years ago. There were more comments, but couched in the terms that now the Board is giving recognition to Open Water as being part of our sport, not just an orphan on the outside looking in.

Second portion of the **Eastern Zone Meeting** - again, not to duplicate reports of others, and since the minutes will be on the PV web site, here are just a few highlights: Elections - Coach Director = Ed Dellert; Age Group Planning, non-coach = Patric Mills; Secretary/Treasurer "for life" = Isabel Frazer; EZ Athlete Rep = Robbie Fischetti. MSC any protest fees paid at Sectionals will revert to the Eastern Zone treasury. MSC the meet Director and Zone Officials Chair will participate in the selection of the Sectionals Meet Referees. Pointed out the new scanable ballots for the House of Delegates; that the Golden Goggle Awards gala will be on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> in NYC; Jamy reported there are 113 National Championship, over 500 National certified officials in EZ, HOWEVER, it was found that some were not current in their registrations!

**Metro Delegation dinner together** - first time we were all in the same place at the same time to chat and catch up on doings, meetings etc.

**House of Delegates, part 1** - Began with the beautiful, simple memorial presentation, wherein the President reads the names of swimming people who have died since last Convention, while Elaine Cox, Chair of the Awards Committee places a single flower in a vase which remains on the head table throughout the HoD meetings. President Ron van Pool read his report and had people who had attended the original 'Snowbird' Convention stand, then all who have attended all Conventions including Snowbird (about 5-6 people.) People who became Life Members, some as surprises from their LSC's etc. were presented with their framed certificates. Dave Carson and Jim Kelly were presented with awards for their service as members of the Board for Eastern and Southern Zones respectively.

**National Awards** - Open Water Swimmer of the Year = Erica Rose; Open Water Committee Award = Diane Limerick; Glenn S. Hummer Award = Julie Bare; Safety Commendation Award = Mike Stromberg; Adapted Swimming Award = Duane Proell and the U. of M.; Adapted Swimmer of the Year (Trischa Zorn) Award = Travis Mohr; Ken Pettigrew Award = Joel Black; Developmental Coach Award = Randy Reese (was presented at the SCM Championships; ASCA Coach of the Year = Bob Bowman (to be presented at the ASCA Clinic); Athletes Appreciation Award = the late Parkes Britton who was the original agent for athletes who had been amateurs in sports. Connoco-Phillips Performance of the Year Award = the 4 x 200 Free Relay Olympic team. Adjourned at 8:30 PM

**House of Delegates, part 2** - Pam Cook gave the **Membership Report** for the year, followed by Don Hart presenting the proposed **legislation regarding the Treasurer** being appointed. It was defeated. Next came the **Executive Director's Report** from Chuck Wielgus, that concluded with a promotional video - heavy on the Olympic Trials and the Olympics - that will be made available to clubs for recruiting purposes.

Fred Siegrist gave the **Credentials/Elections Report** and conducted the **Elections**. The four unopposed candidates were elected by acclamation. He announced the Zone election results while people cast their ballots for the contested positions. Paul Sigfussen then gave the **USSIC** report. Treasurer Bruce Stratton presented the **2005 Budget**, which was passed. It begins the new quadrenium, the overall planning time frame for the national budget. Don Hart then took the podium to conduct the voting on proposed **Rules and Regulations** changes/Additions. He first explained the procedures to be followed. Then we made the first pass on the first omnibus presentation. Some were pulled for discussion, the remainder were voted in. And so it progressed. The major discussion involved the proposal for a rule requiring background checks for coach membership. Items of note which were passed included: guidelines for determining 'general advertising' with respect to recruitment; moved the jurisdiction of 304.3.11 to the LSC Board of Review, [would have made a big difference to a case in Metro]; when the rule proposal failed, a Resolution was passed requiring the Board of Directors to develop a program for background checks with a goal that the program will be in effect for the 2006 registration year; a major body of work relating to Open Water rules was easily passed - it streamlines Article 7 and places many items in other parts of the rulebook where it's more appropriate. The other most significant item to be defeated, (R-16), would have required all club officers and directors to be non-athlete members.

There were no Vice President's reports requiring action; no old business; the one item under new business was the announcement that Don Hart was retiring as Rules and Regs chair and that Bruce Stratton would succeed him. Having pressed on past the 12:00 break time, we were finished before 1:00PM.

We enjoyed some free time, did some packing and then attended the Annual Banquet. Masters Swimming once again entertained us during their awards presentations. The USA Swimming Swimmer of the year went to Michael Phelps; The USA Swimming award went to Arvidas Barzdukas, who for once was struck speechless. We in the Eastern Zone are particularly proud to claim him as one of ours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bea Hartigan