

Convention Report 9/12 – 16/2006 Dearborn, MI

Tues. 9/12 Travel uneventful; settled in room; registered for Convention; lunch.

Awards mtg. – Learned budget passed by the Board in the AM.

Old - USA Swimming Award winners' reunion to happen at Olympic Trials. Defined Lippman; Rookie of Meet awards and reported on new Jr. National medals and history of Philadelphia Bowl. Will continue the list submitted for Women's Sports Foundation HoF.

New – Discussion of curtailing number of medals at Nationals; uniform on stand; Diversity Award (proposed) and eliminating 18-Under award at Nationals.

All American report – 1,100 applications last year; impressive number of repeaters and 'perfects'. Disability Records report: 97 SC Yd, 6 SC M & 153 LC M. Of the total, 59% were set in USA Swimming competition. The committee adjourned to closed session to vote on awards for this year.

Delighted to go to dinner with Pat and Don Rich from MI. Lot of catching up.

Wed. 9/13 First AM workout, seven other coaches helped, word went out to GC's by Zone. A long trip to Livonia, longer coming back in traffic. Change times for subsequent days. At breakfast renew contacts; quick checks of e-mails, Senior and Board before Officials W'shop.

Officials – **Denny Ryther** noted sunset of Open Water, so officials should be training. **Dan McAllen** noted records set by our swimmers; help running Masters Worlds. **Carol Zaleski** reported on compromise with FINA – will list within age but not nominate until have refereed a National Championship. Jonty is studying *where* the dolphin is most effective in Breast. **Bruce Stratton** Announced that as of Sept. 1st, the YMCA will use USA Swimming technical rules. Y officials will have to take our clinics to become USA and we'll have to take Y clinic to become Y – because of philosophy etc. Reviewed interpretations – watch, Back, Breast. **Julie Bare** noted form for Ref to complete if athlete(s) with a disability compete in the incentive program for meet hosts. Use Article 105 as a guide, answer Yes, No or ? if not sure swimmer meets disability criteria. Sign the bottom, initial other lines. **Paul Jones** reported on the testing upgrades by a great task force. If a question has more than 25% wrong answers, they check and might reword. There is a new Ref recert test and one in the works for Starter. **Carolyn Burke** - Recruitment, Retention and Reciprocity- Items are on website. Survey of non-renews showed about 25% loss, most because child not swimming. Have a seminar done. Reciprocity is a process the receiving LSC can impose their requirements. **Jim Sheehan** – Communications, assembled athletes' view of officials so we can improve perception. Past newsletters have been archived. Committee wants to hear from us – can use our ideas for part of Best Practices. Mail LSC survey = 400 responses, when e-mail = 1,200 from 58 of 59. AOL spam blocker is a problem, even if want. **Larry Johnson** – Training, are reviewing Videos have completed 18 or 19 so far; working on DVDs – stroke first, the start; script & taping done, Rowdy will narrate. **Bob Griffiths** reported on the updated certification process begun on 1/1/06. Received 59 meet evaluations of 89 requested observations. Some not held yet. Have about 100 applications for advancement. Have seen that if observation is going on, ALL seem to look sharper. Mentoring seems to be happening. Officials appreciate feedback. Most N3 recommendations are proper, though some rubber stamping, need to evaluate evaluators. Trying for interactive report online. **Pat Lunsford** is pleased the Our Kids Initiative website is up and running. Program continues.

Quick lunch with Gail Dummer, Julie Bare and others about SWADs.

Attend/Participate at **Open Water Officials'** Seminar; dance back and forth with **Rules and Regs**.

Able to point out to Rules & Regs that this is about the tenth year proposing "Start" move, will come forward with 'No Recommendation.'

Also short spell in **OW Committee** meeting – was asked to help in revision of OW Manual/Mt Directors' Handbook. Delighted to hear Atlantic City '07 is on track to happen and that application for inclusion on FINA circuit will go forward.

On to the **Safety/Risk Management** Workshop – explanation of how courses are vetted for acceptance; reviewed accomplishments over year; expressed concern about future; noted that there will be a mid-year *Risk Management* meeting (not Safety) although will perforce include segment. I suggest a segment on compliance with ADA because that certainly goes hand-in-hand with both subjects. **Pat Hogan** on Background

check program – for now, four to six LSCs’ coaches, National Board, National, Camp & Team staffs. 11,000 coaches while 10,000 officials with turnover and much less contact. On application, info to provider and check is done. If clear, then info to Reg’n database, if not, the denial goes to applicant – can appeal. If flunk, there will be a standing Review Panel for further appeal.

Lots of thanks to committee members.

Officials’ Burning Issues- discuss calming a type A young official, be patient etc. The Y is now using USA S rules, they should try to take our clinics, but we should take theirs on philosophy etc. We should be a resource of officials for them. Consider diversity – it should reflect your area if possible, help recruit athletes and their parents might follow. Define motionless? FINA & USA S use ‘stationary’, HS & NCAA use ‘Motionless’. Think of stationary as in place – on mark. Other topics included “Our Kids” and working within the new certification program.

Welcoming Reception – Much socializing, plenty of food – but long lines. MoTown theme ok except the two impersonation performers were not that good.

Thur. 9/14 The bus leaves at 5:05 with 54 on board, two coaches from Club Wolverine meet us there. Dash back for b’fast on fly and to Zone meetings.

EZ minutes will arrive via e-mail. New Zone Liaison, Clark. Tech Plan’g report: ea Area set own cuts; Super Sectional cuts set to yield 10 heats of 50s & 100s, 8 heats of 200s etc; the four day event order was presented and Medley relays – all were accepted. Proposal to have extra entries who meet Qual. time in Spring Zones was defeated.

Consult on “Marshals” for **Safety Committee** meeting. Check on **Rules & Regs.** Meeting.

Committee Chairs lunch with President.

Disability Workshop with focus on how clubs can comply with ADA.

Discover Masters Long Distance is today, not Friday. Manage to make it to support 2008 bids. Win neither, but get lots of congratulations and encouragement for ‘07 10k. Remain as default if successful bidder cannot produce.

Give **Disability Records** report again at **Championship Coordination Committee**.

Metro Delegates dinner.

Back in time for **Meet the Candidates** panels. Treas & Tech. VP are uncontested; Pres. Has three candidates; Admin, Program Ops and Program Development each have two. Scheduled for 7:00 to 8:30, program goes until after 9:15.

Fri. 9/15 Bus has 51 on board, five of us as coaches. Last continental b’fast, the dash to **National Board of Review** for recert. Last prep and attend **Disability Committee** meeting. Three members excused, Walt retired. Minutes of conference calls accepted; mission statement had been reviewed; note name change to “Disability” Committee; under new structure – committee will be 8 members plus 2 athletes.

Participated in discussions on: *Workshop* – went very well, might reconsider time of day, move to Club Development program; *Meet Host Incentive Program* – Material on website, should go forward, new committee consider continuation/turning over to another committee (if so which?); *Internet meet* – on website, we need to get word to potential participants; reviewed how many of original 23 points we accomplished, tried to pick one thing to work on until the new committee is up and running; as to LSC contact list – just reach out to your Zone for now. **New Zone** reports – all are now including Athletes with Disabilities, Southern working on how to include in score if not finalists; *Records* – most recent are on website and certificates have been printed, total of 256 were set during the year, 59% of those achieved at USA Swimming meets; *Zorn Award* – want to assure performances in other than USPC/IPC meets are taken into consideration; also address S14 and S15 for this. Assignments – *Bea* get AmRecs to Randy by July 30 for Zorn ballot; contact GCs and Disability Chairs noting existence of Disability Records program.

Safety Education Comm. – reports on the year’s accomplishments, including “Referee’s Checklist”, start of marshal’s checklist and briefing/clinic materials; reviewed “Safety Highlights for venue & Swim Team”; continued cooperation from Adolph Kieffer; went over how courses are accepted/denied as acceptable for Coach requirements; discussed role in revised governance structure; many thanks to members for all their hard work.

Quick lunch.

Open Water Committee – went over many items that need to continue, such as camps, championships, selection meet(s), postal meet, etc. Discussion on cleaning up old Manual and combining with the ‘removed’ Rules which now are ‘Policy or Procedure’ items. Bea was volunteered to help.

Eastern Zone Meeting – Picked up with bids and elections; brief introductions of National candidates; see minutes for more detail. Info of note:

2008 - Short Course: EZ = No bid; Sec’n 1 = MR 3/6-9; Sec’n 2 PV 3/13-16; Long Course: EZ = PV/VA combined; Sec’n = Buffalo.

Elected: Ed Dellert - Coach member of Board, Boots Hall – EZ Sec’y/Treas. Haley Smith (CT) EZ Athlete Rep.

EZ Service Award – John Hirschman. Isabelle Fraser was thanked for her many years of service to the Zone as Secretary-Treasurer “Extraordinaire”.

Committee Chairs dinner with the President – Ron thanked us all for our dedicated service.

House of Delegates – At memorial presentation, the Flushing Y swimmers, the mother, and Jim Roberts were all announced while their pictures were displayed. We heard Ron van Pool’s final President’s report; presentation of Life Membership plaques; Past Board Members received memorabilia for their service.

Awards: OW Committee – Rick Cross; Glenn Hummer Erica Rose; Safety – Eric Fucido; Disability Committee – Pam Redding; Disability Swimmer of the year – Jessica Long; Ken Pettigrew – Mike Saltzstein; ASCA Coach of the year – Eddie Reese; Development Coach – Bill Rose; Athletes’ Appreciation – Eric Namesnik (R.I.P.); ConocoPhillips Performance of the year – Michael Phelps for his gold medal in the 200 IM @ Worlds.

Sat. 9/16 – Bus down to three coaches and twelve swimmers. Neat workout – NCAA dual meet events, ended with 400 Free mixed relays, including two teams of less than 4 members! With early finish and Saturday’s lesser traffic, return in plenty of time to get ballots etc before HoD meeting.

House of Delegates – Membership = over 249,000 yearly athletes, 33,000 seasonal, one event OW = 90; Clubs = 2,712; non-Athletes 28,406. Credentials were reported. **Special** – Fred Kelly was recognized to give a heartfelt thank you to all from Louisiana for getting swimming back in operation. **Carol Zaleski** – gave explanation of USSIC and its history – established in Barbados in 1987 and Safety Education started in 1988.

Elections – nominations were invited from the floor, being none, unopposed Treasurer – Peter Carney and Technical VP - George Block were elected by acclamation. Ballots were used for remaining four contests.

State of the Sport – Chuck gave as a chat with lots of videos. **USSIC** – annual report given by John Peterson. **Elections** – delegates directed to vote in a run-off for President. **2007 Budget** – Peter Carney focused on a couple of items, noted that this is for one fourth of the quad budget. J. Kenny pointed out that the USOC is pushing for the budget to be accepted only by the Board in future. Budget passed. **Legislation** – took less than 1.5 hours and the proposal to put the Start at the beginning passed. VP reports requiring action – Just noted time standards will be adjusted. **New Officers** – were announced: President – Jim Wood; VP Admin. – John Wilson; VP Program Development – Mary Jo Swalley; VP Program Operations – Pat Lunsford. **Old** – the Background Screening recommendations were accepted. **New** – Jim Wood recommended Bruce Stratton be retained for two years as Rules and Regulations Chair. **Adjourned at 11:26.**

Delightful lunch with three athletes, including Jarrett Perry, Disability Records holder.

Used afternoon to pack and rest. Banquet went well and efficiently.

Sun. 9/17 – the 6:40 AM flight was on schedule and arrived in time for me to see grandson’s soccer game.

Respectfully submitted,

Bea Hartigan