

## 2007 Report of the General Chair-MSI

As I sit down to write my last annual report to the membership of Minnesota Swimming, Inc, I cannot help but reflect on how fast my four and a half years as your General Chair have gone.

I must say that I have been very fortunate to have a great Board of Directors, composed of dedicated individuals that share the common bond of providing an outstanding experience for our children in the great sport of swimming. My job was made very easy because of this group of individuals and made easy by the great group of parents at large who share the love of swimming. To all of you, I say a heartfelt THANK YOU and job well done!!

Because of all of you, I leave MSI stronger than it has ever been in its history.

We have a record number of swimmers that have qualified for the various national meets as well as two swimmers who qualified for the Paralympics in Athens back in 2004. This is clearly a reflection of how fortunate MSI is to have such a dedicated and qualified group of coaches involved in our organization.

MSI is also in the strongest financial position ever and we have a record number of members in our organization.

As I leave, I am gratified that I was able to accomplish, again, thanks to all the members of MSI, most of what I set out to do when elected in September,2002.

I would have to say my biggest accomplishment was building the bridge between MSI and MSHSL which led to the "right to participate" rule for our swimmers during their high school season. A special thank you goes to Rep. Deb Hilstrom for being our advocate at the Capitol on this matter.

My biggest disappointment clearly was not having Minnesota awarded the Olympic Trial meet next year at the Exel Center. I would be remiss if I did not thank the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Sports organization (owners of the Wild among other teams), Duane Proell, and Bob Naegle for providing great leadership and support in this endeavor. They were the ones that worked to get the meet here and we were their advocates. It is an example of the great community support that we all get from our locally based companies.

In closing, I would ask the future boards of MSI to continue to work to make our outstate clubs more a part of MSI and its workings. I still feel they are somewhat disenfranchised from the main organization and I would hope we could further embrace these clubs as the great members that they are.

Again, I want to thank all of you for giving me the privilege of serving as your General Chair for the past two terms. What I know I will miss most is being on deck at the various meets and interacting with all the kids at the various age groups that I have had the opportunity to meet all over the state. After all, MSI is about our kids and it has been a great delight to be able to interact with all ages.

Respectfully and humbly submitted,

David R. Braun  
General Chair  
Minnesota Swimming, Inc.