

The past year has been very busy and I believe extremely productive for MSI.

USA-Swimming has mandated that all LSCs develop strategic plans and tools as part of the “LEAP” initiative. MSI’s deadline for compliance with that mandate is February 2012. This is not a “gimme” – a number of LSCs have been required to correct and re-submit materials that USA-S rejected. So MSI has and is taking this task very seriously. In a number of areas, the LEAP initiative touches areas of particular relevance to the administrative chair. For example, a comprehensive review of the MSI bylaws and their compliance with USA-S and legal requirements has been completed. Another example involves a unique review of policies and procedures by a graduate student intern under the direction of the MSI staff.

There has been a continuing effort in the past year to look at MSI communications particularly in the area of social media. This effort has been led by the PR Coordinator and the Senior Athlete Representative. The MSI website remains a very important tool. The webmaster has been studying a variety of possibilities including new web “platforms” as well as “leveraging” the technology to place more functions and resources “online”.

Two responsibilities of the administrative chair have had particular focus in the past year. Under the MSI bylaws, the administrative chair serves as a member of the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee. The Finance Committee supported several important initiatives of the Finance Chair as well as helping to review the 2011-12 budget proposals. The Personnel Committee spent extensive time implementing the hiring of an Executive Director as directed by the BOD as perhaps the #1 key issue for the long-range strategic needs of MSI. The implementation and refinement of that issue will continue to be a priority of the Personnel Committee over the next year and will include regular performance reviews.

On a slightly less positive note, the administrative chair is responsible for enforcing fines when non-registered athletes swim in MSI sanctioned competitions. Although the number of such violations did decrease in the past year, it continues to occur. I urge the member clubs to look at your registration procedures. These fines are not something that anybody enjoys. And there is the underlying concern that clubs are at risk if an injury should occur while a non-registered athlete is training with the club.

As I look ahead to the next 12 months, I hope to help facilitate progress regarding the administration of our meets. We continue to have meets that are oversized. This is a “good” problem insofar as it reflects the continued growth of our membership and our organization. But it is a problem that requires more attention. There are various other aspects of meet administration that might be improved for the benefit of our athletes as well as those clubs hosting meets. I hope to generate some constructive solutions over the next few months. Finally, I’d like to remind the MSI community that feedback is really valuable. There is an online meet evaluation on the website. Your comments and constructive criticisms are really important. Please submit those evaluations.

I am looking forward to this final year of my term.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Hanton
Administrative Vice Chair