

Annual Report of the Age Group Chair

Over the past year, I have held the position on the MSI Board of Directors as Age Group Chair. During that time, I've proposed a variety of legislation, been part of local, regional, and national meetings with other Age Group Chairs, and had many conversations with Minnesota parents, coaches, swimmers, and officials regarding ways to help make the MSI Board of Directors and Minnesota Swimming the best it can be for all involved.

Throughout the past months I have proposed various legislation to change the State Meets. Even though each one of them has been voted down, my goal was and is to continue to make our State Meet the best it can be. So maybe discussion is the beginning; but, getting people involved in that discussion is most important.

As Age Group Chair, I have assigned much of the responsibility for the Central Zone Meet to the coaches on the MSI Board; because they have the knowledge and the connections to the coaching community, which are not available to all Age Group Chairs.

In my role as Age Group Chair, I proposed and it passed that the House of Delegates Meeting also be the Meet Bid meeting. That should substantially increase attendance for the annual meeting and encourage greater interest and participation in MSI.

My continuing goal is to have more people involved in MSI. We often hear the complaint that it is the same people on the Board all the time. After having been a Chair of the Nominating Committee, and placing a requirement that the nominees must have attended several meetings in the past year; it leaves the Nominating Committee with few candidates to run. It would not be in the best interest of Minnesota Swimming to elect individuals to serve on a Board until they have an overview and understanding of Minnesota swimming, the Minnesota Swimming Board of Directors, the concept of local swim committees, as well as greater MSI issues. Please, Coaches, Parents, and Officials, attend a few meetings, volunteer for a committee, *get involved!*

Also as Age Group Chair, I proposed and it passed to change the entry fee for meets, who is responsible for the awards, how the awards are handed out, and simplifying what the splash fee is for all meets. Hopefully, the changes have made a difference in the bottom line for swim meets and made things easier to figure out.

I will continue to seek out new and better ways to make swimming in Minnesota the best it can be. I am always open to ideas and suggestions ___ as long as they include involvement by "the suggestor".

Paul Lundsten – Age Group Chair