

September 8, 2004

MSI GENERAL CHAIR REPORT TO 2004 HOUSE OF DELEGATES

As I write this report, it is hard to believe that MSI is beginning the 2004 Fall/Winter season. Summer just seems like it arrived and it is gone. UFF DAH!!!

The second year of my General Chair has seen its usual challenges and successes. I am very gratified with the progress that has been made on balancing the MSI budget with special thanks to Jack Boder, our former finance chair and Al Ness our new finance chair. As of this writing, it would appear that we will have a balanced budget but will need to continue to monitor our revenues to expenses in the years ahead.

I am pleased that for the past year, and for the first time in four years, our Board of Review has not had to meet to hear any complaints or appeals. This is a very gratifying statistic.

The composition of the MSI board of directors changed dramatically this past year. Several positions saw resignations including secretary, finance chair, Age group chair, officials' chair, and NTV Chair. A number of very qualified MSI members have stepped up to fill these positions until the term of the previous officeholder expires.

With change can come some very positive results and this year was no exception. I believe that MSI has gone a long way in improving the quality of our "product" to our most important asset...the kids. We have work to do but I believe that MSI has begun to be an organization that is rejuvenating itself into a more adaptive and productive organization.

Along these lines, I believe that my major accomplishment in the year was, working with Rep. Debra Hilstrom (an MSI mom), several of our more seasoned coaches, several of our senior swimmers, and Mary Jo Malchow, to get the MSHSL to entertain and then agree to, as it relates to swimming, provide our swimmers the "right to participate." Please see the changes and my letter on www.mnswim.org. Many thanks to Debra for all her hard work to get our two organizations to this point. All of Minnesota swimming will be better for these positive changes!

As of this writing, your MSI board has met with the City of St. Paul, Excel Energy Center, and the ST Paul Chamber of Commerce to work with them to petition USA Swimming to award the city and Excel Energy Center the 2008 US Olympic Swimming Trials. Just **visual the excitement** that this would bring to all of Minnesota and the upper Midwest to have this most prestigious national swimming event in the Twin Cities.

Under Duane Proell's capable leadership (Duane is the U of M Aquatic Center Director), this event promises to deliver the best trials ever. Cross your fingers and let's all hope that together, we are successful at getting the trials awarded to the City of St Paul and the Excel Energy Center!!! WHEN WE ARE AWARDED (fingers crossed), there will be many exciting opportunities to volunteer...but let's not get ahead of ourselves.

Another bid that is being made, this time by the University of Minnesota, is the 2005 Dual in The Pool between Australia (The Thorpedo et al) and the United States (Michael Phelps and our Olympians). The MSI board will be assisting the U on this endeavor as well during the national convention.

In closing, like any person, I have made some mistakes this past year as General Chair. I have tried to drive a new enthusiasm for our mission as an organization and for those mistakes made, I apologize. I want to thank the MSI board and the many volunteers who made 2003-4 such a rewarding year and, more importantly, a great experience for all Minnesota Swimmers.

Dave Braun
MSI Chair

