

GENERAL CHAIRS REPORT—May, 2005 HOD

It is hard to believe that nearly seven months have passed since our last HOD.

This HOD is being held to meet the requirements made relative to the bylaw change that has MSI holding its HOD in the Spring of each year rather than the Fall. The main reason was to give newly elected officials the opportunity to attend the annual USA Swimming Convention and not have to wait over a year once elected as it was in the past. Most other LSCs hold their HOD in the Spring so we are conforming with these fellow LSCs.

By the time this report is delivered, the USA Swimming Olympic Trials site committee will have come to the state to scout out the proposal that has been made to hold the Trials in 2008 in St Paul. I am very grateful to the Xcel Center and Minnesota Wild organization for including MSI in the bid process. The Wild are taking one hundred percent of the financial risk in holding this event.

If we are fortunate to be awarded the Trials, MSI's involvement will be to provide 100% of the volunteers for this event. In addition, the MSI BOD has agreed to hold a pre-Trials meet before the trials at the Xcel Center and donate all proceeds to the Trials. This meet will be open to all swimmers in the country regardless of their membership affiliation. What a great experience for all swimmers to be able to compete in the pool where the Trials will be held.

On the high school front, all indications from both swimmers and coaches are the RTP that took effect at the beginning of the girls' high school season this Fall was a success. I am gratified that most coaches from both USA Swimming and the high school embraced the spirit of the rule changes. I have been told that the rule change has resulted in improved communications between the high school coach and the club coach. And most importantly, it has been of benefit to the swimmer which was the main reason for the rule change. My thanks to David Stead and the MSHSL for working with us and Rep. Deb Hilstrom in making this happen!!

I will defer to Al Ness to provide you with an update on our financials but suffice to say t we are back on solid financial grounds. I am very appreciative for Al's assistance not only as the MSI treasurer but as the Zone Team Manager. Al has again volunteered to be the Zone Team Manager when we take the kids to the wonderful facility at the the University of Michigan this summer.

I would also like to take this opportunity to again thank all of our volunteers and Board members for their dedicated time and efforts in trying to make the Minnesota Swimming experience the best that it can.

As always, I am open to comment/suggestions/criticism and may be contacted at davidpgm@aol.com.

David R. Braun

