

WESTERN ZONE MINUTES
Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro, NC
September 13-14, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Brandon Drawz, Senior Zone Director. All Western Zone LSCs were represented. Elected and appointed officers present: Brandon Drawz, Senior Zone Director; Robert Broyles, Junior Zone Director; Jon Hayashida, Swimming Championship Coordinator; Marilyn Loitz, Secretary/Treasurer; Eugene Mielke, Disability Swimming Coordinator.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Western Zone members who have passed this year.

Introductions and recognitions made during the meeting: USA-S President Bruce Stratton; USA-S Past President Ron Van Pool; USA-S Vice Presidents and candidates for office Mary Jo Swalley (Administration), Jeff Gudman (Program Development), Dave Berkoff (Technical), Jim Sheehan (Program Operations); Past Western Zone Directors Mike Saltzstein, John Kinney, Larry Johnson, Vicki Marsh; Jeri Marshburn, Olympic Team Assistant Manager; Deb Keane, Meet Director for Olympic Trials; USA-S Treasurer candidates Stu Hixon and John Erter; Athletes' Executive Committee candidate April Robinson. Executive Director Chuck Wielgus praised Bruce as an awesome President in many different capacities and roles. He introduced Frank Busch, National Team Director, as a person of impeccable character whose leadership has had a lot to do with the success of our team in London. Frank gave a brief talk which included our successes this year at the Olympics, the impact of Western Zone swimmers at that and the National level and the importance of working at the grass roots level and building character.

M/S/P Motion to approve the minutes from September 15, 2011 as presented.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Senior Zone Director, Brandon Drawz. 2012 was a fantastic year for our zone with a lot of things coming to fruition this year and everyone in the zone should be very proud. The Senior Zone Meet has gone from 26 athletes four years ago to 757 athletes this year. The Age Group Meet was a great meet and Grand Junction did an amazing job in making the meet fun along with a lot of fast swims. Brandon has been asked by USA-S President Bruce Stratton to chair a task force on the Sanctioning of Meets to make the process more streamlined and easier. A survey has been sent out to LSCs and coaches. Brandon would welcome feedback and opinions from everyone. Western Zone was well represented by swimmers, coaches and staff at the Olympics and a round of applause was given to all of them.

Swimming Championship Coordinator, Jon Hayashida. Ben Britten was Meet Director at the Senior Meet in Clovis. There were 66 teams, 757 athletes, 4,197 individual entries, 315 relays and 32 new records set. Lee Young was Meet Director for the Age Group Meet in Grand Junction. Sixteen LSCs participated. There were 724 athletes, 3,809 individual entries, 538 relays and 4 new records set. At the business meeting on August 9, issues discussed and motions included LSC Officials representation, LSC chaperones, online meet entry, Age Group 14/U new format and establishing a set rotation for the meet.

Secretary/Treasurer, Marilyn Loitz. A written report was distributed. **M/S/P** Motion to approve the 2012 Treasurer's Report.

Officials Coordinator, Don Hougardy. (Given by Robert Broyles) 2012 Age Group Championship, August 7--12; Host, Maverick Aquatics Swim Club. Lee Young (Meet Director) and his many volunteers hosted a well-run enjoyable meet. Officials Dave Coleman (Referee, HI), Linda Seckinger (Administrative Referee, CO), and Julie Carpenter (Team Lead Chief Judge, CO) all did an excellent job.

2012 Senior Championship, August 2--5; Host, Clovis Swim Club. The fourth year of this meet saw tremendous growth in attendance with the level of competition advancing. Ben Britten was Meet Director and Jim Paterson (Referee, CC), Linda Vicik (Administrative Referee, PN) and Doug Wertz (Team Lead Chief Judge, IE) were the assigned team. They all stepped up to the challenge presented by the large number of swimmers and a short program and provided a good meet and a well officiated competition.

Looking forward to 2013. The Age Group Championship meet is scheduled to be held in Roseville, CA and the Senior Championship in Clovis, CA. At the Age Group Meet meeting, a committee was formed to look into requiring each LSC to provide officials and possible approaches for partial funding of such a requirement.

Other Meets and Conferences. Other 2012 referees were as follows: Summer SCS Sectionals--Gold Section, Mary Jo Swalley; Blue Section, Robert Broyles. Spring SCS Sectional—Blue Section, Linda Eaton; Winter SCS Sectional—Blue Section, Ed Ruth,

Disability Coordinator, Gene Mielke. Paralympics: The USA Paralympic team finished fourth with 41 medals (14 gold, 13 silver and 14 bronze) of which Western Zone athletes Brickelle Bro (Colorado); Cortney Jordan (Nevada); Leticia Martinez (New Mexico); Michael DeMarco, Rudy Garcia-Tolson, Roy Perkins and Joseph Wise (California) won nine. Wayne Sherman (Colorado) was one of two USA officials at the meet and Kiko van Zandt (Washington) was one of the Coaches. Swimmers with Disabilities: Based on USA Swimming 2011 demographics we currently have 426 swimmers who have listed a disability on their registration forms; down 6 swimmers from 2010. I know this number is incorrect. LSC Disability Chairs can check on their own swimmers by having their registration chairs print out the database for those swimmers and then following up on them. Also it will alert them to additional swimmers that are not in the database. Recruiting and Retention: A challenge to you--Recruit more athletes with disabilities into swimming and find teams for them. Resources are available on the USA Swimming Disability WEB site providing tips and suggestions for training athletes with specific disabilities and/or coaches to contact for mentoring. There are many ways to accommodate them in actual competition. US Paralympics has a number of developmental meets (in addition to major competitions) in the US and more are being contemplated. One of the reasons we had a smaller team in London was that a number of swimmers stopped competing after the last worlds resulting in fewer slots available based on world rankings. We need to continue to build the base!

REPORT OF CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

2013 Age Group (14/U) Championship Meet. Each LSC received a meet packet. The meet will be held August 7-10, 2013 in Roseville, CA at the Summer Sanders Pool in the Roseville Aquatics Complex and will be hosted by California Capital Aquatics/Sierra Nevada Swimming. Questions can be directed to Peter Votava, Meet Director at meetdirector@ccaswimming.org; or to Denna Culpepper, SN Gen Chair dc Culpepper@surewest.net.

2012 and 2013 Senior Championship Meet. With 757 athletes this year's meet was a challenge. Robert reviewed the results of a survey made of the coaches at the meet. The results will be used by the Zone Directors, Championship Meet Coordinator and Meet Directors to come up with a great format for 2013 which may include using two pools in order to handle the large increase in the number of swimmers. This group would welcome additional input. 2012 Meet Director, Ben Britten, invited us back to Clovis for the 2013 meet. Dates and other information will be announced later.

REPORTS OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES MEMBERS

Times and Recognition Scholastic All-American Subcommittee, Marvin Lanphere. Fewer made the team this year as the time standards were raised. 597 men and 632 women (10, 11, and 12th graders) were successful applicants, with 462 women and 424 men having 4.0s. Missy Franklin (CO) received the only perfect score. Pacific Swimming had the largest number of successful applicants, followed by Southern California.

Governance, Clint Benton. Information is being gathering to look at the current governance of USA-S at the House of Delegates and Board of Directors level. They need your thoughts, ideas and concerns about how USA-S is currently being governed. If you did not get their form to fill out at convention, it can be found on the USA-S website.

Age Group Development, Linda Eaton. Shari Stoddard and Jade Sobek also serve on this committee. IMX games have now been held for three years. A location has been lost for 2012-13 due to lack of participation. They are looking at distance events and creative ways to increase the number of splashes and participation in these events for age group swimmers while still making the meets viable for the hosts. In the future they would like to develop a "cookbook" for these meets to make it easier for LSC s and also have their own page on the USA-S website.

Open Water Swimming, John Kinney. Their annual convention seminar will deal with the health and safety of athletes featuring Dr. Jim Miller, an expert on the subject, and athlete Steve Sholdra (PN). John Dussliere will speak on coaching issues and a discussion will be held on coaching issues. John would like to see more open water meets in our zone to bring more athletes into this segment of the sport. In London we had a female place second and a male place tenth.

Registration, Jim Patterson. Starting in January, background checks are beginning to expire. Hopefully there will be a renewal link by then with a cost of \$19 instead of \$39. Everyone who is a non-athlete member is required to have a background check. The emphasis in their workshop was to find alternate ways for officials and coaches to show that they are certified and up-to-date.

Disability Swimming, Don Watkins. Their workshop had good discussion on having better things to offer and getting more people involved. They've also discussed participation in zone activities and look to incorporate new ideas into their meets.

Senior Development, Shawn Smith. Competition at the national level will present new challenges as times will get faster over the next four years. Competition is becoming more elite as demographics change and our sport gets older. Western Zone is faced with difficult decisions of how to manage our senior meet and how to stay flexible to best meet our athletes' needs. For next year, times for Juniors and US Open will stay the same; World Championship Trials will be

faster and Grand Prix will be limited to 600 swimmers and be significantly faster. This all puts more stress on sectionals. Trust those elected to take your ideas and trust them to execute meets in ways that are best for the athletes.

Diversity, Kent Yoshiwara. This committee recently changed its name and has a new mission statement and roles of responsibilities. Central Zone has held two diversity camps, Eastern Zone one and Southern Zone's is in the planning stage. Kent is working with our zone directors and USA-S to get Western Zone in the cycle. The plan is to hold camps in two zones per year. A lot of the ground work has already been done and the committee has a "cookie cutter" available. There is some funding from USA Swimming. Other zones are looking at having a Diversity Chair.

Officials, Steve Sholdra. The committee's big focus this year is expansion of communications through more involvement in their newsletter for officials and their facebook page which has gone from 0 to 735 members. They are working on some new u-tube pages with interviews of officials and athletes and hope to start a twitter page as well. Burning issues for officials will be discussed at their workshop on Friday.

Convention Education, Lydia Huceby. A workshop on nutrition will be held which will be geared to the athletes. It will be more simplified and easier to understand than in the past.

Rules and Regulations, Larry Johnson. He encouraged everyone to look at the proposals and discuss them with our LSCs prior to the House of Delegates as there are several important issues that deal with coaches and athletes.

ELECTIONS -- NOMINATIONS

Junior Zone Director (non-athlete, coach)	Ben Britten, Kenny Chew, Terry Stoddard
Western Zone Athlete Representative	Lydia Huceby, Russell Payne, Steve Sholdra

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Berkoff, chair, and Linda Eaton, committee member, presented a report from the task force committee charged with developing a new format (excluding 15-18 year olds) for the Age Group Championship Meet. The meet has been reduced to a 3 ½ day meet and includes some longer events for the 10/Under and 11-12 age groups. The report also included an estimated timeline for the meet which included two heats and possibly three in finals.

M/S/P as amended. Motion to accept the Order of Events format for the 2013 Age Group Meet as amended. (Note: The Order of Events is attached and will be posted on the Western Zone website. westernzoneswimming.org)

M/S/F Motion to amend to allow up to three relays per age group that will be scored.

M/S/P Motion to amend that the top 16 places in individual events will be scored rather than the top 8.

Requests were made to remain flexible on the timeline and to note this in the meet invitation. The zone directors and meet management were given permission to change the date of the meet business meeting if needed.

M/S/P Motion to add a \$15 surcharge to both meets for 2013 with \$10 going to the host and \$5 going to an officials' fund to help defray their costs. (NOTE: This motion was subsequently superseded.)

M/S/P Motion to accept the 2013 Time Standards as presented with the standards for the new events to be developed and added.

M/S/P Motion to approve the following two items passed at the WZ business meeting held at the Age Group Meet.

5.8.2(SDIF) electronic file or by zone on-line entry system.

Add to the meet announcement under Facilities: An LSC must have at least one chaperone in the Athletes' Village to supervise during any time that their athletes(s) are using the athlete village.

M/S/P Motion to form a task force to work on the Senior Championship Meet format.

A request was made that we look at an additional section in our Western Zone. Brandon suggested that the zone directors, the sectional chairs and any others interested form a task force on this. He asked that this task force and the one on the Senior meet format have their reports ready for the General Chairs meeting in April.

M/S/P Motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. The meeting was called back to order on September 14, 2012 at 3:08 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF 2014 AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIP MEET BIDS

Pacific Northwest Swimming, Weyerhauser King County Aquatic Center in Federal Way, WA

Southern California Swimming at a venue to be determined
Hawaii Swimming at the Kihei Aquatic Center, Maui, HI

Comments by Brandon. Brandon reviewed some of the highlights of his years as a zone director and a member of USA-S Board of Directors, among them the strides made in athlete protection, the growth of our Senior Championship Meet, the instituting of the April Western Zone General Chairs Meeting. He thanked us for allowing him to serve and for trusting him to represent us as a senator and not just someone to run a meet.

A presentation of a plaque was made to Brandon, the Best in the West, Big Kahuna in appreciation of his outstanding service. Robert voiced our feelings that it has been an honor and a privilege to work with him.

M/S/P Motion to approve the 2013 proposed budget.

NEW BUSINESS

M/S/P Motion that for the years 2013 and 2014 only, the Western Zone Directors have the authority to use monies from our Western Zone treasury of up to \$3,000 per year to hand out as they so choose for officials' travel and the same authority for up to \$8,000 per year to protect our meet host(s). (NOTE: this motion supersedes and rescinds the motion previously passed establishing a meet surcharge.)

Diversity, Kent Yoshiwara. Kent asked for volunteers to help him with some Diversity work for Western Zone. There are many different programs going on throughout the country (except in Western Zone) that we can use as models. Work has been started to develop a Diversity Camp for LSCs in our zone for 2014 and optimistically have at least two swimmers from each LSC along with a coach or chaperone. They are looking at training of coaches on some of the cultural issues. There are thousands of dollars out there that can be obtained for diversity programs. Kent would like anyone interested to let him know if they would be willing to serve on a Western Zone task force for diversity.

Convention Education, Ken Chew. Ken reminded people to pick up the "Bingo Lingo" cards available for \$1 each and that there would be prizes. The money will go to the USA-S foundation.

BIDS

The 2014 Age Group Championship Meet will be hosted by Pacific Northwest Swimming in Federal Way. They will have first right of refusal for the 2014 Senior Championship Meet. Anyone else interested in hosting the Senior Meet should let Robert know.

ELECTIONS

Ben Britten was elected as the Junior Western Zone Director
Steve Sholdra was elected as the Western Zone Athlete Representative

M/S/P Motion to destroy the ballots.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Loitz, Secretary/Treasurer