

Central Zone Athlete Committee--Meeting Minutes
Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 7:00 PM CT
Via Conference Call

A. Call to Order and Attendance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Swanson at 7:02 PM CT. Attendance was taken.

Those Present: Jack Swanson, Patrick Hunter, Joe Gazzarato, Byron Jia, Erin McCarthy, Shelby Mullendore, Abby Oliphant, Ashton Pearson, Emma Schaetz, Josie Uerling, Amy Hoppenrath

B. Review of USA Swimming and Central Zone Mission Statement and Core Values

Swanson reviewed the Mission Statement and Core Values of USA Swimming and the Central Zone.

C. Approval of Central Zone Athlete Committee Guidelines and Officers

i. Committee Guidelines

Swanson asked if there were any questions in regards to the proposed Central Zone Athlete Committee Guidelines. No questions were raised. A motion was made. Seconded. All in favor.

ii. Committee Officers

Swanson would like to re-appoint Brad Jacobs to serve as Vice Chair and Patrick Hunter as Secretary of Central Zone Athlete Committee. A motion was made. Seconded. All in favor.

D. AEC and Central Zone Updates

i. From the Central Zone Athlete Representative and other AEC and/or USA Swimming Board of Directors Members

Swanson provided an update in regards to the activities of the Athletes' Executive Committee. An Athlete Leadership Camp will be held in Houston, April 20-22, 2018. Each LSC will be able to send one athlete that will be fully funded by USA Swimming and one athlete in which USA Swimming will pay all expenses while in Houston, but where the LSC will fund the airfare. The camp will focus on leadership development, but will include an in-water swimming component, for athlete representatives that may not have the opportunity to attend a National Team Select Camp or camp of similar

nature. Swanson also reported that National Committee appointment decisions have been made; email notices will be sent shortly.

Hoppenrath provided a Central Zone update and Board of Directors update. The Zone is beginning to prepare for the summer Zone meets, choosing meet referees and evaluators. The Meet Information will be completed in early 2018. Hoppenrath commented that it is an exciting time on the USA Swimming Board of Directors, as a result of the governance proposal passed at Convention. The passing of this proposal has led to many improvements of the policy manual and many other key discussions and decisions, of which more information should become public soon.

E. LSC and National Updates

i. From LSC and National Athlete Representatives

Mullendore provided an update on Midwestern Swimming. Midwestern Swimming is beginning to form its Athlete Committee, approved a budget for the Committee, and is beginning to select members.

Pearson provided an update on Missouri Valley Swimming. They currently have more athletes interested in serving on the Committee than they do space on the Committee, so they are considering a limit of two athletes per club. They are also trying to establish structured guidelines for selecting athlete representatives for the Board of Directors.

Schaetz provided an update on Wisconsin Swimming, which is working on putting together a retreat for club and LSC athlete representatives in Spring 2018. The LSC has had lots of club athlete representatives who have graduated and/or lost interest, and is and trying to find new athlete representatives to fill their shoes.

Gazzarato provided an update on Michigan Swimming, which is working on finding athletes who would live to serve on and be engaged members of its LSC Committees.

Oliphant and Uerling provided an update on Oklahoma Swimming, which is working to improve its athlete representative election process, to make it more structured and formal.

Jia and McCarthy provided an update on Minnesota Swimming, which has created task forces within its LSC Athlete Committee, including an events task force to plan the LSC awards banquet and a charity task force to plan events such as the LSC suit drive. The LSC is working on growing its awards banquet and is also trying to find ways to better engage club athlete representatives.

Hunter provided an update on the Officials Committee, which recently held a conference call to discuss the overwhelming number of applications for national meets. The Committee discussed strategies that will aim to be inclusive of as many interested officials as possible.

Gazzarato provided an update on the Registration/Membership Committee. The Committee's current primary focus is the implementation of the Flex membership.

Swanson provided an update on the Governance Committee. The Committee has discussed the role of LSC Governance and Nominating Committees, and their recommendation to the Required LSC Bylaws Task Force is to have separate Nominating and Governance committees at the LSC level. More conversation on these topics will occur closer to Convention.

F. 2017-2018 Projects

i. Social Media

Swanson provided a social media update. The Central Zone is active on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, with Twitter having the most followers. He would like to get more people involved with social media, and solicited feedback on social media. Comments included that interactive/trivia posts are very well-liked. Hoppenrath asked if it would be possible to do something fun on social media in regards to the Zone meet. Ideas raised included "live-Tweeting" meets, and/or some sort of challenge between locations, such as records broken, faster winning times, etc.

ii. Zone Level Ideas—Competitions

Swanson stated that the Zone currently has two age group championships, sectional meets, and an open water championship. The Zone had a senior championship from 2010-2014, interest decreased over time and the meet has since been removed from the schedule. Some coaches have raised the idea of having a Zone senior circuit, which would be a series of senior meet throughout the Zone. Swanson solicited discussion in regards to this concept. Comments included that school schedules would need to be taken into consideration, as well as travel expenses. Hunter suggested that the series be consisted of existing well-known meets in the Zone, as opposed to the advent of new meets. The Committee generally felt that such senior series would be better received than a senior championship.

iii. LSC Support

Swanson would like to schedule calls with LSC representatives throughout the year to check-in more frequently, so that he can better distribute

information to the Athletes' Executive Committee and to National Committees.

G. Other Questions, Comments, or Concerns

None were raised.

H. Adjourn

Motion was made. Seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Hunter