

Central Zone Newsletter

February 2002

Julie Bare and Michael Lawrence, Central Zone Directors

Welcome to the New Year! USA Swimming heads into 2002 with great anticipation as many of the great issues of the sport are being discussed and preparations for Athens are in full swing. The 2002 USAS Convention is shaping up to be quite an exciting event!

USA Swimming News

(The following report from the January 2002 Board meeting has not been approved. Minutes from the January 2002 Board meeting will be approved in May.)

The possibility of great change looms in the future of USA Swimming as we undergo the first-ever review of our organizational structure by an independent consulting group. Dadie Perlov, CAE and founder of Consensus Management Group (CMG), was introduced to the Board. CMG has worked with the USOC on similar studies. CMG specializes in four types of groups: Sports Organizations, Bar and Legal Associations, Health Care Industries, and Food and Agriculture.

CMG's philosophy is based on three core values:

- Belief in being informed.
- Extraordinarily independent.
- Pride on integrity.

There are three major areas that will be investigated during this Governance Review process:

- Structure of the staff and volunteers.
- Governance across the organization: Clubs, LSCs, Zones, House of Delegates.
- Organizational culture, the unwritten rules that guide the organization.

Results from focus group interviews, policy manual reviews, and observations of various organizational activities (Board and committee meetings, staff functions, etc.) will be presented to the Board of Directors in May. Recommendations for any changes will be carried forward to the appropriate

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groups for discussion and possible implementation by the House of Delegates in the fall of 2002. You can follow the discussions and offer your own thoughts by clicking on the "Governance Study" graphic on the USA Swimming website, www.usa-swimming.org.

Julie Gorman, Athlete Vice-President

Mark Henderson reported on the September 11 charity event that the Athlete's Advisory Committee is organizing. The Chelsea Piers sporting complex in New York has offered their complex for this event.

The 2001 Athletes Incentive and Reward program has been implemented and is meeting its objectives. The next Athletes Executive Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 9, 2002.

Michael Saltzstein, Local Administration Vice-President

A group consisting of the National Federation of High Schools, NCAA, USA Swimming, and USSIC, were brought together to begin the process of data exchange, concerning their facilities.

Safety Education Committee will be asked to check with LSCs about their competition calendar, and the demographics of their pools. The results of this will be reported on at the May Board meeting.

The Registration Committee will be meeting in Colorado Springs for registration training, part of which will be held at a computer center.

John Wilson, National Administration Vice-President

The script for the Officials video, along with the FINA version, will be completed in February.

Policy Manual updates will be made, and brought to the Board for approval in May.

The biography forms used for elections, will be posted on the USA Swimming website. These forms must be returned to USA Swimming HQ by June 1 in order to be included in the USAS informational distribution packet.

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Legislative proposals must be received by the Rules and Regulations Committee by May 15th. The 2002 rulebooks and membership directories are completed and are "in the mail".

The NCAA Task Force (Mark Henderson, Debbie Hesse, Michael Lawrence, Tim Welsh, Wayne Burrrows, and John Wilson, Chair) met to discuss partnering with organizations such as the USOC, the College Swim Coaches Association, and NCAA to raise awareness of the difficult issues facing men's collegiate programs.

Leanne Spletzer, Program Development Vice-President

Five new brochures related to "Swimmers with a Disability" were presented. These brochures are written as guidelines for Local Swimming Committees, Swimmers and Parents, Meet and Safety Directors, Coaches, and Officials. These brochures will be included in the club toolboxes.

The new Club Membership proposal brochure was distributed. This proposal was discussed in great detail during the November 2001 Board meeting. (This brochure is attached in PDF form.) New requirements for club membership will be effective for the 2003 registration year.

Ron Van Pool, Program Operations Vice-President

The Officials Committee is working on several key projects including a revised training handbook, guidelines for recruitment, retention, and reciprocity, procedures for discipline and de-certification, the OUR KIDS initiative, and the National Meet Mentor program. The committee is working closely with the ASCA to begin on-line testing through the ASCA testing system.

The Time Standards Committee is working on 2003 National Champs time standards.

The Championship Evaluation Committee is working to develop a different method of collecting data. Current methods are not yielding the desired level of participation. Several Speedo Champions Series Meet hosts have requested assistance in developing meet evaluation methods.

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Updated materials (handbook, software, officials list) have been sent to all LSC verification officers by the National Times Data Base Coordinator.

The Records Coordinator has processed all records from the US Open and World Cup.

Final details of the Disabilities Championships have been completed and the meet information is ready for publication.

Dave Johnson has assumed the position of Chair of the Domestic Open Water Committee; Kerry Ellett will continue as a committee member.

Murray Stephens, Technical Vice-President

The Sports Medicine Committee has organized a seminar on swimmers' shoulder injuries. The seminar will be held during the National Team Coaches meeting.

Michael Lawrence is working with Mike Unger on the implementation process for the Club Excellence program. Applications and information will be sent directly to clubs.

Senior Swimming will meet in Minneapolis. Agenda items include changing Spring Nationals to a club meet, establishing criteria for evaluating sectionals, and single versus double time standards.

Zone Director Reports

Kerry Ellett and Dave Carson (Eastern Zone) reported that a meeting will take place in May in Baltimore, Maryland. There will be two sectional meets in March: one in Fairfax, Virginia and one in Long Island.

Julie Bare and Michael Lawrence (Central Zone) reported that the Zones would like a checklist of National Championship protocol checklist as well as a checklist of contractual obligations for sectional meet hosts.. Three spring sectional championships are scheduled for Lawrence, KS., Chicago, IL, and Cleveland, OH. The Zone Directors encouraged USA Swimming to speed up the hiring process for a Central Zone Sport Development Coordinator.

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Jim Kelly and Charly Mallery (Southern Zone) reported that the sectional meets that are being cut back are in the summer, and not in the spring as previously reported. There will be four spring sectional meets, and three summer sectional meets.

Ken Ebuna reports that Kim Holmes (Western Zone) is doing great in keeping the zone directors updated. There will be two Spring Sectionals in 2002; one in Las Vegas and one in Federal Way. Summer Sectionals will be held in Roseville, California and Phoenix. A committee has been formed to discuss reorganization of the sectionals.

FINA / International News

The order of events for the Olympic Games will be one of the items discussed and decided at the FINA Extraordinary Congress in April (Moscow). Jim Wood and Jerry Olson will be representatives at the Extraordinary Congress.

The IOC has asked USA Swimming, and USA Track and Field to bring forth a plan to decrease the number of athletes attending the Games. Changes to relay entry procedures been proposed and will be voted on in Moscow.

USA Swimming is looking for an appropriate way to recognize the women's 4 x 200 Freestyle relay team, from Fukuoka (Maritza Correia, Colleen Lanne, Shelly Ripple, Natalie Coughlin, Julie Hardt, Cristina Teuscher, Diana Munz).

During the Sydney Olympics Anita DeFranz proposed to the IOC that Shirley Babashoff receive the Olympic Order. No one within USA Swimming or the USOC were aware of this, or that the IOC had decided to award the Olympic Order. Mark Schubert will communicate with Shirley, and if she wishes to receive this award, every attempt will be made to make this a special presentation.

The Chinese women's team recorded thirty-six top eight performances (global) Chinese National Games in November. USA Swimming will send a letter to Mustapha Larfaoui, President of the FINA Bureau, expressing displeasure and concern about the Chinese women's team and suggestions for follow-up.

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The next USA Swimming Board of Directors meeting will be in Omaha, Nebraska on May 4, 2002.

News From the Heartland

Activity within the Central Zone is rather quiet during the winter months. Preparations for the 2002 Zone Championship Meets are underway in both Minnesota and Wichita. Zone Meet hosts and LSC assignments for 2002:

STAR Swim Club (host) @ St. Paul, Minnesota	Wichita Swim Club (host) @ Wichita, Kansas
9-11 August 2002	9-11 August 2002
(Open Water, TBD)	(Open Water, TBD)
Indiana, Michigan, Midwestern, Ozark, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota	Ohio, Wisconsin, Lake Erie, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri Valley, Illinois

Reminders: The Zone approved a proposal to include swimmers with a disability in the Zone Championship Meet. Each LSC may enter two 12 & under and two 13-18 swimmers with a disability (SWAD) in the meet. The SWAD will not be required to achieve qualifying times standards for their age groups/events. This proposal will be effective with the 2002 Central Zone Championship meets and re-evaluated at the 2004 Central Zone meeting.

Please be sure to discuss the proposal from Indiana Swimming for a single 2003 Central Zone Championship Meet in Indianapolis. A decision will be made on this proposal in September 2002. Zone Championship Meet bids for 2003 should be sent to Michael Lawrence. The dates for the Zone Championship Meets are August 1-3 and August 8-10 2003, and August 6-8 and/or August 13-15, 2004.

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Mark your calendar for June 1st, the deadline for notifying Kate Chronic of your LSC's preference for competition dates in 2004. Please discuss this within your LSC and contact Kate (chronicks@aol.com) as soon as you have a decision.

Zone Secretary Betty Kooy suggests that everybody check to be sure their address/e-mail address are correct in your LSC registration files. USA Swimming does an occasional mass mailing using the e-mails from the registration program, which means that an incorrect address defeats the communication effort. Call your LSC Registration Coordinator to double-check your personal information.

Bob Merchant (Communications Committee member) would like to see more items from the Central Zone posted on the "Zone News" section of the USA Swimming website (www.usa-swimming.org). The site has a link, making it very easy to submit info from your LSC or club.

The 2002 Central Zone Sectional Meets are:

2002 Spring

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois-Chicago

Host Lake Forest Swim Club

7-10 March

Contact Maureen Sheehan

LFSC1@msn.com

molfsc@aol.com

www.swimlfsc.org

Cleveland, OH

Host Lake Erie Silver Dolphins

7-10 March

Contact Amanda Kiel

akiel1954@aol.com

330/656-1285

Lawrence, KS

Lawrence Aquatic Center

28 Feb- 3 Mar

Host Lawrence Aquahawks

Contact Brian Barnes

bbarnes@webserf.net

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2002 Summer

July 31-August
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Indiana University, Bloomington
Contact Phil Cole
Pcole@indiana.edu
812/855-9793

26-29 July
Minneapolis, MN
University of Minnesota
Host Twin Cities Swim Club
Contact Kate Wizenberg
winze006@umn.edu

24-27 July
Oklahoma City, OK
Host Kerr-McGee Swim Club
Contact Gerald Hoffman
405/341-1814
gerry.hoffman@goldratt.com
www.kmscswimming.org

Please contact your Central Zone Directors with any questions:

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We encourage posting this Newsletter on your LSC or club website!