

CENTRAL ZONE NEWS
May, 2003
Eric Nelson, Julie Bare, Zone Directors

The Central Zone extends its deepest sympathy to Donna and Joe Ogilvie at the death of their son. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

This summer....

• **Sectional meets**

July 24-27, 2003 - Minneapolis, MN - Contact: Duane Proell (proel001@maroon.tc.umn.edu)

July 23-27, 2003 - Bloomington, IN - Contact: Annie Eakin (amelick@indiana.edu)

July 23-26, 2003 - Oklahoma City, OK - Contact: Rick Shades (r.shade@innotech-intl.com)

• **Mega Zone Meet**

August 6-10, 2003 - Indianapolis

August 6 - Open Water (Eagle Creek Park Reservoir)

Contact – Ed Merkling (emerklin@iupui.edu)

August 7-10 – Pool Events

Contact – Arlene McDonald (arlenemcd@aol.com)

2004 Spring Sectional Meets....

- University of Illinois-Chicago
- Miami University – Oxford, OH – March 18-21, 2004 - Long Course
- Oklahoma City – Long Course

Convention - September 8-14, San Diego....

Elections – you may submit nominations ahead of time or make them from the floor. The following offices will be elected this fall:

1. Central Zone Director – Coach (Eric Nelson is running for this position.)
2. Assistant Age Group Coordinator
3. Age Group Planning – Coach
4. Athlete Representative (elected by the athletes of the Central Zone)
5. Anyone wishing to run for the OIOC should submit the nomination and election information form to Fred and Judy Siegrist (fredsieg@pacbell.net) by September 3rd.

Proposal: The Central Zone shall conduct a meeting of the General Chairs from its LSCs in years where no General Chairs meeting is hosted by USA Swimming. The Zone will pay for the meeting room, materials, hospitality, and Zone Directors, Athlete Representative's and Secretary's costs. The LSCs shall be responsible for providing transportation, per diem, and lodging for their representative(s). *(Note: no official business would be conducted at this meeting and LSCs would not be required to attend. It simply would be an opportunity for networking and troubleshooting and for better preparing for issues to come before the Central Zone at its fall meeting. The Zone Directors could facilitate assignment of roommates to reduce costs to the LSCs. The meeting would likely take place in Chicago or other hub city within the Zone.)*

2004 Zone Meet Bids

No bids have been received to host the 2004 Zone meets. The Zone voted to conduct the pool events August 6-8, 2004, with open water either preceding (August 5) or following (August 9). Please notify either Eric Nelson or Julie Bare if your club or LSC is planning to bid.

Tuesday Zone Forum

This year Central Zone will hold a party on Tuesday evening (7-10) with informal networking rather than the more traditional forum. To the extent anyone wants something discussed on Tuesday, we will make an effort to make it happen.

Town Meeting

Wednesday evening, 7-9, there will be a town meeting about club development. Pat Hogan will explain the initiatives, strategic plan, and answer questions.

Legislation

If you have any suggested changes to USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, those changes must be submitted to Don Hart by May 15th. The legislation that is to be presented to the House of Delegates will be posted on the USA Swimming web site this summer.

If you have proposed changes to the Central Zone Policy & Procedures, please submit those to Michelle DeLuna or Beth Walker. Other suggested changes may arise in the Meet Evaluation Committee meeting at Convention.

Notes from the Board of Directors...

1. Real progress is being made in developing a single on-line data base. Registration Chairs, NTV officers, etc. are being trained.
2. Members of a task force to study and propose for the 2005 Junior Long Course meet are Saltzstein, Banks, Mitchell, Stopkotte, Malone, Rauch. Another task force is being formed for the Senior 2005 spring meet.
3. A task force to review coaches safety and WSI courses has been making significant progress. Members include Murray Stephens, John Leonard, Jim Richardson, Priscilla Davis, Tom Avischious, Dave Thomas and an athlete.
4. Dues Increase Task forces – Remarkable work has been done by two task forces – Facilities Task Force and Programs and Services Task Force. Their proposals have been prioritized and worked into the 2004 budget proposal. Many of the initiatives are scheduled to phase in over time.

Facilities – the main components of their recommendation include the addition of a Facilities Development Director and Community Relations Liaison to the staff, the hosting of an annual Facilities Conference, a Build a Pool Handbook (includes Website FAQ), and the development of an inventory of pools throughout the USA.

Programs and Services – recommended inclusion of the following 11 programs in the 2004 budget: 1) addition of 4 field services staff, 2) expanding USA Swimming video resources, 3) high school swimming initiative which would help LSCs and coaches work collaboratively with their high school federations to solve problems, 4) expanded coaches education, 5) club recognition program, 6) integrated template system, 7) club research, 8) coach mentoring program, 9) parent education program, 10) pilot club program (pool of dreams to facilitate creating clubs in urban and rural areas), and 11) science research (grant program).

5. The financial outlook for 2003 continues to improve as we find ourselves spending less than budgeted for the first quarter as well as taking in more revenue than budgeted. A preliminary budget for 2004 has been developed. The Executive Committee is confident that when they meet in August, they will be able to balance the Quad budget without significant reductions to existing programming. They feel they will be able to do this because of the impact of the dues increase. Because in the initial year of the dues increase, the task forces have recommended budgets totaling only 2,250,000 of the 3,115,950 that was earmarked for dues increase spending, over 860,000 will aid in balancing the budget. We must take a long-term view of these new initiatives, realizing that they evolve over time, not within one year. We will focus on quality and phase in personnel and programs over time. The absolute intention is that over time we will have appropriately spent at least 25% of the new revenues in each of the three designated program areas. The decrease in funding from the USOC

and the increase of spending for Athlete support has made this Quad particularly difficult. The goal of USA Swimming is to be able to fund its own programs without reliance on the USOC or USSIC and we are taking steps to accomplish that goal.

6. The BOD made the following appointments:

FINA Bureau position for 2005-2008 – Dale Neuberger

FINA Congress Delegate for Extraordinary Congress in Barcelona - Jim Wood (Annette Salmeen if USA Swimming is permitted a second delegate).

ASUA Executive Committee – Carol Zaleski

ASUA Technical Swimming Committee – Jim Wood & Fernando Canales

7. The Counsilman project on safe water depth for diving is scheduled to be completed in June, 2004.

8. Pat Hogan has put together a listing of programs and services available from USA Swimming with the relevant website links. It categorizes the programs/services for swimmers, for parents, for clubs, for coaches, and for LSCs in a manner that everyone can understand and take advantage of. We encourage all LSCs to put this list with website links on their home pages.

If you have any comments, questions, matters you'd like placed on the Central Zone meeting agenda, or issues brought forward to the USA Swimming Board of Directors, please contact either Eric Nelson (enelson@wichitaswimclub.org) or Julie Bare (jbare81895@aol.com).

See you in San Diego!