



Central Zone Newsletter

Summer 2006

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The Beginning of Summer: An Exciting Time for Families and Teams

Greetings, Central Zone Colleagues!

The start of summer signals the onset of three action-packed months for swimming families, beginning with your team's first opportunity to finally train or compete outdoors and culminating with September's annual USAS Convention in Dearborn. We hope that you all are able to take the time to savor the many opportunities that summer offers not only in swimming, but more importantly, for your families.

This is also a busy time of year in the Central Zone as two of our LSCs and several of their member clubs prepare for our August Central Zone Championship Meets and your LSC/Zone leaders strategize and finalize convention planning. In this newsletter, you will read about past and upcoming competitions in our Zone, important information about the USAS Convention,

notes from the April USA Swimming Board of Directors meeting, reminders for LSC leaders, and news from throughout the Central Zone. As always, please feel free to contact either of us with questions or to request more detailed information about these articles.

It seems as though these fabulous summer days always pass by much too rapidly. As you journey through these next three months, we wish you many enjoyable times and much success. We're looking forward to crossing paths with some of you on pool decks across the country this summer and meeting up with the most of you in Dearborn in September. All our best for a fantastic season!

Sincerely,
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Central Zone Directors

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www.centralzones.org

2006 CZ Championship Meets



Oklahoma City, OK

Indianapolis, IN

www.extremeaquatics.org

www.AllGreatRacers.com

Are you ready? The excitement is building for this summer's Central Zone Championship meets to be held in Oklahoma City and Indianapolis. Find out more specific information by reading through the bullet points below.

- **Entry Letters:** The entry letters for both sites of the 2006 Central Zone Championship meets are now posted on the Central Zone website at <http://www.centralzones.org>.
- **Meet Directors and Team Assignments:** From August 3-6, the teams from Arkansas, Illinois, Midwestern, Missouri Valley, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Ozark, and South Dakota will be competing in the Zone Championships in Oklahoma City. Meet directors for this event are Eileen Hatfield (eileenhatfield@aol.com) and Paul Thompson (auggie1@sbcglobal.net). Indianapolis will host the Indiana, Iowa, Lake Erie, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin teams from August 10-13. Meet directors in Indianapolis are Kent Nelson (BAAdminCoach@insightbb.com) and Brad Smith (bsmith@nhj.k12.in.us). Please contact the meet directors of each respective meet with any questions.
- **Officiating at the Zone Championships:** Applications to officiate at the Central Zone Championships can be found on the Central Zone website at <http://www.centralzones.org>. Applications must be received by Mike Tchoukaleff, Central Zone Officials Chair, no later than June 30 for applicants to be considered for assigned positions. Mike will accept applications for non-specific deck positions at any time. However, only those officials applying by June 30th are guaranteed to receive a meet shirt. All Central Zone officials are encouraged to volunteer. Please contact Mike Tchoukaleff for more information at miketch@piasanet.com.
- **Site Visits:** Many thanks to Lisa Ellis and Mike Lewellyn, Central Zone Championship Meet Coordinators, who organized and conducted site visits to Oklahoma City and Indianapolis this spring. Their efforts in creating positive partnerships with our local hosts should result in two very outstanding competitions. Lisa and Mike will also be the meet observers at Oklahoma City and Indianapolis respectively in August. They will be reporting back to us at September's convention regarding the conduct of these events. Please feel free to share any observations with Lisa and Mike while you are in attendance at these meets.
- **Local Organizing Committees:** Kudos to our local hosts in Oklahoma City and Indianapolis for all the outstanding efforts they are making to insure that this summer's Central Zone Championships are memorable events for our Central Zone athletes, coaches, officials, and families! Your enthusiasm and organization are much appreciated by your colleagues in the Central Zone. **Thank you!**

Central Zone News

Reminders for LSC Officers

- **General Chairs and Treasurers:** Please be sure that your LSC is in compliance with USA Swimming's requirements for LSC financial reporting. Financial reporting requirements are detailed in the LSC section of the USA Swimming website. Click on "Volunteers" at the top of the homepage; then from the menu on the left, click on LSCs; lastly click on the "LSC Financial Reporting" icon in the upper right corner. Please direct questions to:
James F. Harvey, CFP®, CPA
Managing Director of Financial Affairs
USA Swimming
719-866-4848
jharvey@usaswimming.org
- **General Chairs:** Please remember to obtain feedback from your LSC Board of Directors with respect to the Central Zone Championship Meet Questionnaire distributed earlier this year. Remember that completed questionnaires are due back to Arlene and Eric by July 1. Thank you for your assistance in improving our Zone championship competitions.
- **General Chairs:** In preparation for convention, please complete the 2008 Central Zone Championship Meet Site Preference Form and submit to Arlene and Eric by August 15. We are asking LSC's to provide this information in advance of convention to help streamline our Zone business meetings and to allow the LSC's sufficient time to research their site and date preferences prior to arriving at convention. Thank you!
- **LSC Boards:** Please identify potential hosts/sites in your LSC for the 2008 Central Zone Championship Meets and encourage qualified groups to bid on these events. Remember: Interested hosts should send an email to Arlene and Eric by August 15 expressing their intent to bid. Bid presentations will be given during Thursday's Central Zone Business Meeting.

Five Central Zone LSCs Elect New General Chairs

Congratulations to the following Central Zone General Chairs who recently "retired" after completing their terms this spring: George Bruce (MV), Terry Harms (OZ), Al Kurth (OH), Bill Schalz (IL), and Percy Verbrugge (SD). We thank these and all retiring LSC officers for your many years of service to swimming and to the Central Zone. Hopefully, you will all stay around and share your expertise with your swimming colleagues for many more years.

Kudos to these newly elected CZ General Chairs: Dick Boettcher (OH), John Dicus (MV), Scot Graff (SD), Jane Grosser (IL), and Dave McCrary (OZ). We all are looking forward to working with you in the years ahead. Congrats!

2006 Summer Speedo Champions Series Meets

Speed Champion Series: The Summer 2006 Section 1 meet (IA, IL, MN, ND, SD, WI) will be held in Minneapolis, MN, from July 20-23 while the Section 2 meet (IN, LE, MI, OH) will be held in Bloomington, IN, on July 25-29.

For information regarding the Section 1 meet, contact Bill Schalz (billschalz@ameritech.net) and for Section 2 information, contact Mark Davis (wtrcsharks@earthlink.net).

The Region 8 meet (AR, MV, MW, OK, OZ) will be held in Columbia, MO, from July 19-22. The Region 8 meet is a closed meet. For meet information, contact Hank Enterline (hankenter@worldnet.att.net).

Speedo Championship Meets Summer 2006

Minneapolis, MN	July 20-23	Open
Bloomington, IN	July 25-29	Open
Columbia, MO	July 19-22	Closed

*Open meets are open to swimmers from outside the CZ with US Open Cuts. See the [CZ Web site](#) for more information and links to the host Web sites.

2006 USAS Convention

Read All the Latest Information about this September's USAS Convention

From September 12 –16, swimming leaders from throughout the country will be meeting right here in the Central Zone at the 2006 USAS Convention to be held in Dearborn, Michigan. Please refer to the convention schedule posted on the USA Swimming website for specific meeting dates and times.

The Central Zone delegates will be convening at the following times to conduct the annual business of the Zone:

Tuesday, September 12
(7:00 – 10:00 PM):
Central Zone Forum

Thursday, September 14
(8:00 – 9:50 AM):
Central Zone Business Meeting

Friday, September 15
(3:30 – 5:30 PM):
Central Zone Business Meeting

In preparation for convention, please make note of the following areas:

• **Proposed Central Zone Legislation:** If you or your LSC are preparing any proposals for Central Zone legislative changes, please submit that legislation to Arlene and Eric no later than August 15, 2006. All legislative proposals should be expressed in writing and ready for distribution at Tuesday evening's Zone Forum. (This does not apply to championship meet changes proposed by the Championship Meet Evaluation Committee during convention.)

Tuesday Night Forum: Please notify Arlene and Eric by August 15 to identify any topics you would like to see addressed at Tuesday night's Central Zone forum.

• **Bids for the 2008 Central Zone Championship Meets:** Bids to host the 2008 Central Zone Championship Meets are now being accepted. Bidding LSCs/clubs should notify Arlene and Eric, no later than August 15, expressing their intention to bid. Bid presentations will be made during convention at the Thursday, September 14, Central Zone business meeting. Bidding entities are responsible for providing any equipment necessary for the presentation of their bid.

• **Zone Elections:** Offices up for election at the September convention are Zone Director (Non-Coach), Secretary/Treasurer, and Athlete Representative. Offices to be appointed are Championship Meet Coordinator, Zone Officials Assistant Coordinator, and Adapted Swimming Coordinator. Please encourage qualified candidates in your LSC to consider one of these positions. Job descriptions for each position can be found on the Central Zone website in Section A of the current Central Zone Manual. As per section 5.3 regarding elections: "Nominations for Zone Director may be made in advance by advising the USA Swimming Elections Committee Chair or

from the floor at the annual meeting of the Zone. All other elected positions shall be nominated from the floor at the same meeting. Elections shall be by secret ballot. Each LSC shall have three (3) votes regardless of the number of representatives in attendance, excepting the selection of the Athlete Representative who shall be elected by the Zone LSC athlete representatives present." Contact Arlene or Eric for further information regarding elections and appointments. Also, please forward any recommendations for the appointed positions to Arlene and Eric by August 15.

• **National Elections:** Delegates to this fall's convention will also be voting for these USA Swimming national officers: President, Treasurer, Administrative Vice President, Program Development Vice President, Program Operations Vice President, and Technical Vice President. We are presently aware of one Central Zone colleague seeking a national office. Pat Lunsford (OH) is a declared candidate for the office of Program Operations Vice President. Best of luck, Pat! We would encourage other qualified Central Zone volunteers to consider running for one of these positions. The Central Zone is loaded with passionate, dedicated volunteers who should consider serving at this next level.

USA Swimming Board of Directors Meeting

January 2006: The summary of the January 2006 meeting of the USA Swimming Board of Directors has been posted since early spring on the home page of the Central Zone Website

(www.centralzones.org)

April 2006: The April meeting of the USA Swimming Board of Directors was held in Colorado Springs on April 28 & 29, 2006. Central Zone Directors Eric Nelson and Arlene McDonald were both in attendance along with these other Central Zone board members: Wayne Burrow (NCAA Allied Representative), Michael Lawrence (Olympic International Operations Coordinator), Dale Neuburger (Ex-Officio Past President/FINA) and Bill Wadley (Ex-Officio/ASCA). Additionally, Julie Bare, immediate past Central Zone Director (non-coach), was present as the chairperson of the Governance Implementation Task Force to present the task force recommendations.

• **Background Checks Update:**

As per the January 2006 meeting summary, the recommendation of the task force to initially screen all coach members and prospective coach members, all non-athletes traveling with national teams and working with USA Swimming sponsored camp and travel programs, all USA Swimming Board members, all candidates for office at the Annual Convention, and all USA Swimming staff members was approved in January by the BOD. It should be noted that any LSC can choose to expand the list of people required to have a background check prior to their becoming a member. Expiration for all screening tests shall be 24 months from the last day of the month in which the screening was conducted.

Matt Barnett and Pat Hogan are in the process of negotiating with a background check provider located in Colorado Springs. The task force is in the process of choosing the LSCs to participate in the pilot program and is working on the details for the appeals process. The final program recommendations will be brought forth at this fall's convention.

• **LSC Financial Reporting:** LSC General Chairs and Treasurers received an email in December of 2005 reminding them of their responsibilities to remit financial reports to headquarters. An LSC Financial Reporting banner was added to the LSC section of the USA Swimming website as a permanent reminder of these responsibilities. A spreadsheet listing the status of all LSCs with respect to their compliance was distributed. Zone Directors will be contacting their noncompliant LSCs to explain the process and spur compliance. USA Swimming would prefer not to have to obtain 990s off the Internet and prefer that individual LSCs submit their own 990s to headquarters along with the other required financial reporting documents.

• **Audit Committee:** Jeff Gudman presented the report of the audit committee, a newly formed committee in 2006. Its responsibility is defined to "be responsible for the review and acceptance of the annual audited statements, management letter, auditor letter and recommendations to the Board of Directors and to oversee the system of internal control of the Corporation." (506.8)

• **Program Operations:** Mike Saltzstein presented a written report with updates from his committees. Open Water: Sites

and timing for the 2007 OW Championships are being reviewed and will be finalized after the Open Water (Steering) Summit. The OW Committee is working to create programs to draw athletes into OW events, and committee members are planning seminars for convention. STARS: Suzanne Heath and her committee are continuing their quest to enhance SWIMS. Officials: An updated starter video is being discussed. Dan McAllen and Joel Black continue leading an effort to identify future referees and starters. The May LSC Officials' Training Clinic currently has 70 registrants. John Wilson has been selected by FINA as a starter for the 2007 World Championships.

Reimbursement: Distribution to qualifying athletes at the new rates is continuing.

Championship Evaluation: Surveys were completed at the Spring Championships in Federal Way; reports are forthcoming. Championship Time Standards: Time standards were approved at the Senior Swimming Committee meeting held at the Spring Championships.

• **Local Administration:** (Mary Jo Swalley) The spring meeting of the Safety Education Committee will be held in Phoenix from May 19-20. The Education Committee met in Seattle on March 25. The Registration/Membership Committee met in San Antonio on April 7 & 8. The committee reviewed and prioritized the SWIMS enhancement list, planned 2006 convention workshops, and is exploring a joint Times/Registration workshop to be held outside of convention. Mary Jo also presented a written report with input from the

April BOD Continued:

Registration/Membership Committee with respect to the Marketing Task Force's request for committee members to evaluate several task force proposals including a "rent-to-own" option for seasonal members to change to year round, the length of seasonal membership, and on-line registration. Contact Mary Jo for the full report.

- **National Administration:** Jeff Gudman presented written updates from his committees (All-American, Awards, Communications, Credentials/Elections, Rules & Regulations, Waterworks, Policy Manual). The Rules and Regulations Committee is meeting June 2 & 3 in Chicago. The legislative deadline was May 15, 2006. The entire OIOC manual is being reviewed to update, streamline, and revise.
Waterworks: The committee is developing a Standard operating Procedure for marketing an event to serve as a template for clubs and/or LSCs.
Credentials/ Elections: Election nomination forms are available on the USA Swimming website as is the convention schedule and convention registration packets. Convention registration materials will be available at the registration desk in hard copy to accommodate late changes.
Communications: The committee is planning three meetings at convention.
Awards: Spring Championships went well. While the majority of awards recipients do report to the awards stands in at least team jackets or shirts, the goal remains to get all the athletes on the stand in their team uniforms.
All-America: The 2006 application form is complete and posted on the website.
Convention: Jeff announced that there are curfews at the Fairland Town Center shopping mall near the 2006 convention hotel. Customers under the age

of 18 visiting the mall after 5:00 PM (every day) must be accompanied by a supervising adult 21 years of age or older. Athletes should wear their USAS delegate badge to the mall at all times. For USAS athletes, a ratio of 10 athletes per one adult will be permitted. (Visit the USA Swimming website under Convention for more details.)

- **Technical:** Jim Wood reported on the activities of the Senior Swimming Committee, the Age Group Development Committee, Steering, and the Open Water Summit. Senior Swimming approved the use of the 2006 Spring Championship time standards for the 2007 Spring Championships. Age Group Development has been conducting a series of conference calls that have addressed the formation and function of an effective LSC age group committee, open water swimming, convention workshop and legislation. Steering passed the following motions: to conduct a short course National Championships the first week in December beginning in 2007; to have the Open Water Summit Committee become a subcommittee of Steering; and to attend the 2007 WUGS.
- **Legal Counsel:** Wells O'Brien reported that positive responses were received from the participants in the February Board of Review seminar. It was recommended that in the future, the seminar be held over two days instead of one.
- **USA Swimming Foundation:** The next meeting of the foundation is May 18 in New York City. The Foundation is considering five proposals for outside fundraising counsel.
- **NCAA:** Wayne Burrow reported that the NCAA Committee would be developing time standards within the next week. Additionally, a "blue ribbon panel" is being formed to study compliance issues.
- **Masters:** Online registration for the XI FINA World Masters Championship meet to be held at Stanford University is now available. The search process to hire a new Executive Director is down to five candidates.
- **ASCA:** Planning for the ASCA World Clinic being held in Washington, D.C. in September is going well.
- **FINA:** Dale Neuburger recognized Rich Young for being appointed to the FINA Legal Commission for 2006-2009 and Sid Cassidy for being selected as the new chair of the FINA Technical Open Water Committee. The FINA World Congress will be held in Madrid from September 21-23. USA Swimming will be represented by Ron Van Pool, the newly elected President of USA Swimming, Mark Schubert, and Chuck Wielgus.
- **USOC:** The USOC Assembly will be held in San Diego in June.
- **YMCA:** The YMCA has voted to align its technical rules with those of USA Swimming beginning September 1. Mike Saltzstein recognized Jim Ryan for his leadership efforts in making this a reality.
- **New Staff Members:** Chuck Wielgus introduced Mark Schubert, National Team Head Coach and General Manager, and John Cruzat, Diversity Specialist. Both spoke briefly about their future goals. Lindsay Benko Mintenko is also the new Managing Director of the National Team Program.
- **Executive Director:** Chuck submitted an extensive written report. He spoke about the activities of the Foundation including the plan to conduct an initial capital campaign to create an endowment, which will then be followed by annual giving

April BOD Continued:

campaigns. The 2006 Golden Goggles will be held at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, CA on Sunday, November 19. "Save the Date" announcements will be sent out soon.

Chuck also spoke about a new pilot program, "Mutual of Omaha Swim 100," that will be piloted in Boulder, CO and Chicago, IL this summer. The program is modeled after several similar successful programs in other sports. The USA Swimming version will target non-members of USA Swimming and will provide the opportunity for 9-12 year olds to test themselves by swimming 25 yards of each stroke after which their times will be added into a single total time. This program is an attempt to build bridges between summer league swimming programs and USA Swimming and to be used as a possible recruiting tool for local USA Swimming clubs. Chuck also explained the "Make a Splash" promotion, this year's water safety initiative.

- **Katrina:** Paul Koch, a representative from the Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross, presented an appreciation plaque to recognize USA Swimming's contribution to the Hurricane Katrina campaign.
- **Building Renovation:** Mike Unger reported on the flume/building renovation project. Demolition work will be started soon with an occupancy target date of early January. About 9,500 square feet of the building will be transformed into a state-of-the-art conference room that will host up to 75 people, 8 new offices, 7 new work cubicles, and additional storage.
- **Business Development:** Matt Farrell reported on web site statistics. In 2005, the USA Swimming website had 5.5 million unique visitors which represents 25% growth from 2004. The most popular section

is Times, followed by Speedo Tip Archive, and 20 Questions Tuesday. Matt also discussed the webcasting pilot that was used at the 2006 Short Course Worlds. There were about 200 participants at a cost of \$19.95.

- **Online Meet Entry System:** Susan Woessner reported on the new OME that was rolled out this spring. The updated system is linked to the SWIMS database and allows an interfacing of meet entries, proof of times, proof of registration, proof of coach certification, credentials, and payment. This system will soon be available for use by clubs and LSCs for a yet-to-be-determined user fee. The target audience would be championship level meets.
- **Club Development:** Pat Hogan gave an overview of the web-based programs in the Club Development Division. There has been a 7% increase in IMX participants, with the largest increase being in the 13 and over age groups. The purpose of IMX is to encourage participation in a range of events. The Toyota Virtual Club Championships were launched in April. The intent of this program is to promote the team element of the sport. Only events for ages 11 and over are considered with single age groupings for 11-18 year olds. The Club Recognition Program will be launched in the next month. It is a "sister" program to the Club Excellence Program. Lastly, Pat indicated that a new interactive CD-ROM titled "Successful Sports Parenting" will be distributed to every club in the next 3-4 weeks. The development of the CD was a joint effort between USA Swimming and the US Ski & Snowboard Association. Clubs should consider giving a CD to every new family on their team. Additional CDs will be sold on the USA Swimming website.

- **Athletes Executive Committee:** The Athletes Committee Manual revisions were submitted and approved. The AEC met in April and is focusing on reaching out to develop athlete leadership. This includes increased involvement and communication at the LSC and Zone levels. The AEC is creating a new position for recruitment and leadership development. The Athletes Convention Participation Task Force members were approved. Bryan Jones reminded everyone that the LSCs and Zones must take ownership in supervising their 18 & under athlete reps at convention.
- **Other Task Force Reports:**
 - Outreach** – There were 150 applicants for the spring Diversity Camp. Athletes needed AAA times to apply. 30 participants from all geographic regions were selected. Coaches of the participants were invited to the camp.
 - Background Screening** – A provider has been selected, and the contract is being negotiated. See additional comments at the beginning of this report.
 - International Swimming Hall of Fame** – A February site visit was made by Peter Carney, Michael Lawrence, and Matt Farrell to get a first-hand view of the state of the ISHOF. The site visit members submitted a detailed report on their observations along with recommendations to consider. At this time, the task force is waiting for numerous documents from the ISHOF and is recommending a continued partnership to insure the preservation of the physical assets of the hall of fame, but no financial support.
 - Membership Marketing** – Michael Lawrence presented an extensive written report Task

USA BOD Continued

force recommendations included reducing the individual seasonal membership period from 150 to 120 days; increasing the life membership fee to \$1,000 which can be either paid in full or in two payments over two years; lock-in seasonal membership fee at \$24 per year for 2009-2012; for 2013 and beyond, seasonal membership fees are not to exceed 50% of the year-round membership fees; explore a swim school membership category; and explore a "Friends of Swimming" membership option. The BOD approved the recommendations of the task force. These recommendations will now be submitted as legislation at September's convention for approval by the HOD.

Governance Legislation

Implementation – Julie Bare presented a detailed oral and written report on the work of the task force. The BOD approved the recommendations of the task force and their incorporation into the policy manual. Since the recommendations involve no legislative items, vice presidents will distribute the information to their committees. Ron Van Pool expressed his gratitude to Julie and her committee for the time and effort spent on this massive project.

Governance Committee – John Kinney submitted a written report, and Bill Maxson gave an oral report explaining the recommendations of the task force. The recommendation is that the Governance Committee be composed of 10 total members (with various membership restrictions) whose responsibilities include review of the governance practices of the BOD, the USA Swimming Committees, and the HOD; review USA Swimming compliance with the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act and the

USOC Constitution and Bylaws; monitor the relationship of the BOD and other key volunteers with the USA Swimming staff; and mentor and consult with members of the BOD and committees on the responsibilities and accountabilities of membership on those groups. The task force recommendations were approved by the board.

- **Old Business – Disability Funding Proposal:** Leanne Spletzer presented a revised request for program funding for the Disability Swimming Committee. The BOD approved the funding request to support an incentive system for the inclusion of swimmers with a disability in meets sanctioned by the LSCs.

2006 Spring Sectionals: Meet Summaries

Below are the meet summaries from the three spring sectional meets held in the Central Zone. Many thanks to our sectional hosts in Oklahoma City, Chicago, and Canton for sponsoring these competitions!

Host Site	Number of Athletes	Women's Champ	Men's Champ	Combined Champ
Oklahoma City Oklahoma	505	Parkway Swim Club	Kansas City Blazers	Kansas City Blazers
Chicago Illinois	784	Academy Bullets	Black Hawk Area Swim Team	Lake Forest Swim Club
Canton Ohio	430	Lake Erie Silver Dolphins	Washington Township (IN)	Cincinnati Marlins