



# Central Zone Newsletter

Summer 2005

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## Greetings, Central Zone Families, Coaches, and Friends!

By the time you are reading this, we will be well past what some consider the “midpoint” of the summer and ready to head into the LSC championship season. We sincerely hope you, your family, and your team are having a most enjoyable summer both in and out of the pool. We wish you much success and many memorable experiences as you finish out this long course season, whether it be at the local, LSC, Zone, Sectional, National, or International level.

This time of the year also signals the beginning of a very busy time for our Zone with the Zone Championships in August and our annual meeting at the USAS Convention in September. Many thanks to our Zone Championship Meet Directors Amy Schmidt and Mike Stromberg in Grand Forks and Kirk Nissley and G. Chris Onsted in Ann Arbor, all of whom have done such a fantastic job completing pre-meet preparations in a very timely and quality fashion. A big thank you also to our meet referees Rick Biggs and Bob Merchant whose work is just beginning. Central Zone swimmers are eagerly anticipating a very special meet experience thanks to the leadership and efforts of the local organizing committees in

North Dakota and Michigan. The dedication of these wonderful volunteers and their contributions to the Central Zone are much appreciated by all their Central Zone colleagues.

In less than two months, many of our LSC leaders will be gathering in Greensboro, NC, for the annual USAS convention. Numerous important decisions will be made during the Central Zone meetings including the selection of sites for both the 2006 and 2007 Central Zone Championship Meets and Central Zone elections. Please read all about the convention details and opportunities elsewhere in this newsletter and consider getting involved in some of these future Zone activities. You won't want to miss this chance to become an active participant in the best group of swimming volunteers in the country!

We're looking forward to seeing many of you soon somewhere on a pool deck or at convention. Thank you all for your continued support of and enthusiasm for swimming in the Central Zone.

Sincerely,  
Eric and Arlene  
Central Zone Directors

### CZ Officers

Arlene McDonald  
Eric Nelson  
Betty Kooy  
Mike Lewellyn  
Mark Davis  
Kate Chronic  
Tony Young  
Mike Tchoukaleff  
Paul Jones  
Sarah Sofelt

[www.centralzones.org](http://www.centralzones.org)

## News from 2005 CZ Championship Meet Hosts



### From Meet Director Amy Schmidt in Grand Forks:

The Red River Valley YMCA (RRVY) Wahoos in Grand Forks, ND, are excited and proud to be hosting the 2005 Central Zone Swimming Championships in Hyslop Pool on the campus of the University of North

Dakota for the LSCs of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Midwestern, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Plans are well underway to make this a great meet experience for all athletes, coaches, officials, and visitors. Check out our website at <http://www.und.nodak.edu/dept/swimteam/zone/z05.html> for updated zone meet information and for an opportunity for free admission. Have a safe trip. We will see you all in August!



### From Meet Director Kirk Nissley in Ann Arbor:

Michigan Swimming is pleased to be hosting the 2005 Central Zone Championships at the Donald B. Canham Natatorium on the campus of the University of

Michigan in Ann Arbor. Welcome to the teams from Ohio, Minnesota, Iowa, Lake Erie, Missouri Valley, Ozark, and Michigan! We're looking forward to an exciting weekend of fast swimming. Please visit our event website at <http://uss-michigan.com/zones2005/> for all the latest meet information.

#### Reminder:

Each LSC may enter two (2) 12 & under and two (2) 13-18 swimmers with a disability in the Zone Championship Meets. These swimmers with a disability will not be required to have achieved the qualifying time standards for their age groups/events.



### Congratulations, Omaha!

USA Swimming recently named the new Qwest Center in Omaha, Nebraska, as the site of the 2008 Olympic Trials.

Congratulations to all who participated in the successful effort to host this signature event for USA Swimming! It's fantastic to have the Olympic Trials back in the Central Zone!

**Kudos, Omaha!**

### USA Swimming Announces New Zone Select Camps for 2006

USA Swimming will host four Zone Select Camps beginning in the spring of 2006. Girls ages 12-13 and boys ages 13-14 will be selected and invited to attend a camp in their Zone. Swims completed this summer, May through August, qualify for the camps.

Some swimmers will be selected based on individual best times while others will be selected based on IMX scores.

USA Swimming is seeking to identify emerging young athletes in each Zone and offering them a unique motivational and educational experience as they move from the local and Zone levels onto the national scene.

For more information, visit the USA Swimming website Camps and Clinics page.

<http://www.usaswimming.org/usasweb/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=236&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>

### Speedo Championship Meets

#### Summer 2005

Minneapolis, MN	July 21-24	Open
Bloomington, IN	July 26-30	Open
Oklahoma City, OK	July 20-24	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.

# 2005 USAS Convention

## Read All About It Here!

From September 13-18, swimming leaders and enthusiasts from throughout the country will be convening in beautiful Greensboro, North Carolina, for the purpose of making decisions that will affect the future of the sport.

Activities include electing officers, voting on rules and legislation, and discussing and planning programs that will continue the tradition of excellence in the sport of swimming.

In addition, the Central Zone will be conducting its business at a series of meetings scheduled during the USAS Convention. Please plan now for convention by considering the following Zone opportunities:

- **Zone Championship Meet Bids:** The Central Zone Directors are currently accepting bids for the Central Zone Championship Meets for both 2006 and 2007. The 2006 weekends are August 4-6 and August 11-13, and the 2007 dates are August 3-5 and August 10-12. If your club or LSC is interested in bidding to host a Central Zone Championship Meet in 2006 or 2007 or would just like more information, please contact Eric Nelson at [enelson@wichitaswimclub.org](mailto:enelson@wichitaswimclub.org) and Arlene McDonald at [arlenemcd@aol.com](mailto:arlenemcd@aol.com) no later than September 1. Bidders should be prepared to make a presentation during Thursday's Central Zone

meeting at the USAS Convention.

- **Central Zone Elections:** The following Central Zone positions are up for election this September: Zone Director – Coach; Assistant Age Group Coordinator; and Age Group Planning – Coach. For more information regarding the responsibilities of these positions, please visit the Central Zone website at [www.centralzones.org](http://www.centralzones.org), click on General Information and locate the CZ Manual – 2005 under Documents. Anyone interested in running for Zone Director – Coach should download the USA Swimming Nomination and Election Information Form and return to Judy and Fred Siegrist as directed on the form. The sooner the form is submitted, the quicker the candidate's name will be published on the USA Swimming website convention page. This form can be found on the USA Swimming website by clicking on Volunteer, then Convention. Downloadable forms are listed in the menu at the right on the convention page. Nominations for this and all other offices will be taken from the floor at the Central Zone meeting at convention.

**LSC Zone Dues:** LSCs are reminded that the annual Zone dues of \$100 are due

to CZ secretary/treasurer Betty Kooy no later than the convention Zone meeting. Dues can be sent to Betty anytime prior to convention at 1429 N. Webster Ave; Hastings, NE 68901

- **Legislative Packet:** All convention delegates are urged to download the convention legislative packet which is now available on the USA Swimming website on the Volunteer page under Announcements in the right-hand column. It is important that delegates study the proposed legislation and get feedback from their LSCs prior to arriving at convention. Well-educated delegates make good decisions.
- **Zone Meeting Agenda:** If anyone has new business to add to the Central Zone convention meeting agenda, please email Arlene McDonald ([arlenemcd@aol.com](mailto:arlenemcd@aol.com)) by September 1.
- **General Chairs:** A conference call will be scheduled before convention in late July for all Central Zone General Chairs to discuss the proposed convention legislation and any other zone business. Information regarding this call will be sent via email to all General Chairs.

# USA Swimming Board of Directors Meeting

## April 2005 Meeting Notes

The USA Swimming Board of Directors met in Colorado Springs on Saturday and Sunday, April 23 and 24. Both Eric Nelson, Central Zone Coach Director, and Arlene McDonald, Central Zone Non-Coach Director, were present.

### Saturday, April 23

#### Recognition of Records

Mike Saltzstein reported on World, American, and Age Group records broken from January through April 2005. At April's World Championship Trials in Indianapolis, Aaron Peirsol broke the World Record in the 100M backstroke, and Katie Hoff broke the American Record in the 200M IM.

#### Treasurer's Report

- Investment earnings for the first quarter were down 2.54%.
- The 2004 audit report was distributed. There were no areas of concern in the Corporation's procedures.

#### BOD Reports

- **National Administration:** Committee reports were distributed along with the 2005 USA Swimming Nomination and Election Form and the 2005 USAS Schedule. Convention registration packets are to be mailed to all delegates and national committee members in May and will be posted on the USA Swimming website. The Rules and Regulations Committee is meeting in Chicago in June. Waterworks reported a successful April Pools Day

promotion and is working on a National Swim Day/Week targeted for early summer.

- **Program Operations:** A very successful World Championship Trials and World University Games Trials were held in Indianapolis in early April. LSC Officials Training Workshop will be held in Colorado Springs over Memorial Day weekend. Time standards for the Junior Championships were revised by the Senior Swimming Committee on April 6 at the recommendation of the Time Standards Committee. Other committee reports, as well as a Junior Championship facts sheet, were distributed.
- **Program Development:** Committee reports were distributed. The Age Group Planning Committee is hosting an LSC Age Group Chairs workshop this weekend in Colorado Springs. Club Development is working on two new projects: Mythical Club Championships and an IM Program. The Disability Swimming Committee met and has generated 23 action items to embrace the grassroots/club level swimmer with a disability into the USA-S family. Good progress is being made by the Top 16 program in developing a clear definition of the rules and policies for governing and administering the program.
- **Local Administration:** The Registration and Membership Committee has formed a task force to address SWIMS security/access issues. The committee also submitted a user acceptance policy for SWIMS users for approval by the Board. The policy was approved and will appear each time a new SWIMS user logs in for the first time and each time a SWIMS user changes his/her password.
- **Technical:** The 2008 Olympic Trials site will be determined by the Executive Committee, and contracts will be signed in June. Partial minutes from the April Senior Swimming Committee were distributed.
- **OIOC:** The USA Swimming Olympic Trials dates are June 30 – July 7, 2008.
- **Athletes Executive Committee:** The National Team Agreement is nearing completion. The AEC has authored a proposal regarding FINA's use of athletes to advertise sponsors on bibs. The proposal will be submitted to the IRC and then forwarded to FINA. The AEC has also requested that a task force be established to address improving communication with athlete members, exploring best practices for electing and involving LSC athlete leaders, and developing athlete leadership within USA Swimming. Action items that guarantee athlete privacy were proposed and passed. Motions to change language in the Policy Manual with respect to the qualifications for Athletes' Committee members and AEC requirements were submitted and passed. Mark

## April BOD Continued:

Henderson was elected chair of the USOC Athletes Advisory Council and was approved as an ex-officio member of the USA Swimming Board of Directors.

- **Zones:** Written reports were submitted by the Directors of the four Zones. The Central Zone report can be found elsewhere in the summer newsletter.
- **YMCA:** YMCA representatives met with Chuck Wielgus, Ron Van Pool, Rod Davis and Pat Hogan with the goal being to form a mutually beneficial strategic alliance. The meeting was a productive step in the process.
- **USMS:** The USMS high-altitude training camp at the flume was a great success. The first issue of *USMS Swimmer*, the in-house magazine, appeared in early March. A FINA-suggested release for the 2006 World Masters at Stanford has been modified and accepted by FINA. Edmonton, Alberta is the site of the 2005 World Masters Games which will be held from July 22-31.
- **ASUA and FINA Technical:** Minutes of the February 2005 FINA TSC Meeting were distributed and discussed.
- **FINA Bureau:** Information is being gathered from all aquatic sports to discuss and determine a maximum age for being on deck. This would not be applied to the current list of participants. The 2007 World Championships will take place in March or April in Melbourne with the dates to be determined this July. The NCAA is willing to adjust its

schedule so that the best team can be sent to Melbourne.

- **FINA Legislation:** Ron Van Pool and Steve McFarland (Diving) will be the representatives to the General Congress. Ron, Bryan Jones, and Jim Wood will be representatives at the Technical Swimming Congress. The IRC recommends that USA Swimming endorse medal money for World Championships. This recommendation was approved by the Board.
- **USOC:** Ron Van Pool shared a USOC draft proposal regarding NGB Governance and Compliance Review. Steve Roush will speak to the Board on Sunday about the draft.

### Task Force Reports

Since members of some task forces are from outside the sport and have been chosen because of their areas of expertise, not all are USA Swimming members. A motion to make these individuals members of USA Swimming by using funds taken from the budget areas from which they serve was approved.

- ✓ **Males in Swimming:** This task force is finalizing its recommendations and should conclude its mission in about six weeks.
- ✓ **Outreach:** The Board approved the proposed mission of this task force: "USA Swimming is committed to increasing multicultural, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity at all levels of the sport to achieve and foster an inclusive swimming environment."

- ✓ **Background Checks:** The task force reported on the Florida pilot program. All coaches and national-level officials living in Florida were invited to participate in the pilot program at no cost. The cost to USA Swimming for each person was \$36. Of the 684 individuals originally contacted, only 85 agreed to participate. Information packets and fingerprint cards were sent to those 85 individuals. After the first 60 days, only 45 people had returned fingerprint cards. The task force is somewhat disappointed with the number of volunteers who completed the process as well as the 4-5 week turnaround time for the FBI response. Another concern was that when using this process, our data becomes part of a national database. The TF believes that any adopted background check procedure must include safeguards that insure confidentiality of data. While task force members were able to get a feel for the office time and expense of administering this type of program, the current thinking of the TF is that the fingerprint program is too much for USA Swimming to administer at this time. The task force asked the Board to confirm that a more conservative approach be examined. The Board approved several motions related to continued work of the this task force including approval of a pilot program that utilizes a background check process involving a name and social security number check procedure. This would not be a fingerprint check but would

## April BOD Continued:

be simpler to manage, reasonably comprehensive, and less expensive. The TF intends to have a final project result on this pilot program in September. Other approved motions were that all BOD members and anyone who declares candidacy for a Board position be subject to the same background check procedures as the coaching population.

### Staff Reports

- **Executive Director:** Chuck Wielgus gave an extensive report on the activities of the USA Swimming Foundation including its adopted mission statement. Summer Sanders and Andy Knox have been added as new directors on the Foundation, and Jamie Rauch has been added as a non-voting athlete liaison. The 2005 Golden Goggles Awards will be held on Monday, November 14, in New York City. The evening will begin with a reception followed by a music concert. Awards will be presented after the concert, and the evening will conclude with a dessert reception. The 2005 Mutual of Omaha Duel in the Pool will be held on Tuesday, August 2, in Irvine prior to the start of the National Championships. The NBC broadcast will be on the following Saturday and Sunday, August 6-7, with a 90-minute show each day. Jim Harvey, Managing Director of Financial Affairs, is exploring opportunities to improve cost efficiencies and other benefits for USA Swimming's business travel policies.
- **Business Development Division:** Rod Davis reported on successful marketing

promotions including the April Pools Day water safety initiative which was geared toward elementary schools. The satellite media tour was picked up by 13 of the top 25 markets. The contest to win a pool party already has 1200 participating schools and 70,000 votes cast.

### • Club Development

**Division:** Pat Hogan reported on the success of the recently completed Build a Pool Conference. 185 participants attended the well-conceived and well-organized program. A one-day version of the conference is being considered for the fall.

### Sunday, April 24

#### Action Items

- The financial report for the quarter ending March 31, 2005, was approved.
- John Morse was approved to act as the General Counsel to the USA Swimming Board of Directors until July 2005 when Wells O'Brien returns.
- USADA Resolution: The BOD approved the following resolution: *USA Swimming endorses all of USADA's current policies, procedures, testing protocols and programs; and we encourage USADA to continue to expand their educational, investigative, prosecutorial and testing technology activities in an effort to fight doping, promote "clean" sport, and ensure a fair and level "playing" field for all Olympic sport athletes.*
- Seasonal Dues: There was no action on a proposal from the Seasonal Membership Dues Task Force to roll back the seasonal membership fee to \$20 and abandon the currently scheduled \$1

annual seasonal fee increases. The consensus was that there needs to be a thorough study of the entire seasonal program and its purpose before a decision on such a proposal can be reached.

- Governance Task Forces: Comprehensive written reports from each of the three task forces (Committees, House of Delegates, and Board of Directors) were distributed. The chair or a representative of each TF presented each report to the Board followed by lengthy discussions of the contents of each report. With the exception of some minor modifications, the Board approved the TF reports be submitted to the fall HOD as part of the legislative packet.

### USOC

Steve Roush, USOC Chief of Sport Performance, presented a draft of the USOC's NGB Governance and Compliance Review policies. Steve stressed that the draft is a working document for each NGB and that feedback is encouraged. The five components of the NGB evaluation process are (1) Athlete Performance, (2) Governance, (3) Management, (4) Revenue Generation, and (5) Operational Efficiency. These five criteria will determine how USOC dollars are invested in each sport. Noncompliant NGBs can expect to experience reductions in their USOC funding. Steve's presentation was followed by a lengthy question-and-answer discussion session with members of the BOD.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

## Central Zone Report USA Swimming Board of Directors Meeting - April 23-24, 2005

During March and April, numerous elite national swimming events were held in the Central Zone including the following:

- World Championship Trials in Indianapolis
- NCAA Division I Women's Championships at Purdue University
- NCAA Division I Men's Championships at the University of Minnesota
- NCAA Division III Men's & Women's Championships at Hope College in Holland, Michigan
- Disability Open at Eastern Michigan University

Many thanks to the local hosts of these events and to swimming officials and volunteers from across the country all of whom contributed much effort and many hours to insure the success of these meets.

### January 2005 Central Zone Meeting

On January 23, 2005, twelve of the fifteen Central Zone LSCs were represented at the Central Zone meeting held in conjunction with the General Chairs workshop sponsored by USA Swimming in Colorado Springs. Those present were Scott Barry, North Dakota; David Braun, Minnesota; George Bruce, Missouri Valley; Tom Hayden, Illinois; Tom Jones, Arkansas; Jan Lawler, Iowa; Robert Merchant, Michigan; Dale Nickels, Wisconsin; Cindy Roberts, Ohio; Peggy Speer, Midwestern; Bob Staab, Oklahoma; Arlene McDonald, Indiana, Central Zone

Non-Coach Director; and Eric Nelson, Central Zone Coach Director.

Items of discussion included recommendations from the two appointed task forces, one which studied zone meet site selection and the other related to the use of surplus zone funds. It was suggested that zone meet site selection should occur three or four years in advance rather than just the preceding year. Hosts should be required to submit an after-action report to share with future meet hosts, and host expectations should be spelled out very clearly by the zone. The CZ leadership is currently identifying facilities and clubs capable of hosting zone championships and will be proactive in soliciting potential hosts. Numerous recommendations for the use of surplus zone funds were brought forward. The two ideas receiving the most support were: (1) scheduling an Olympic athlete at each zone championship meet to conduct a clinic and autograph session for athletes as well as to present awards, and (2) conducting one or two zone camps for Central Zone athletes. Both recommendations will be brought forth for further discussion at September's convention.

National topics discussed were:

- Scholastic All-American Committee: Each LSC needs to do a better job promoting this to clubs.
- Dues increase impact on seasonal swimmers in the LSC: George Bruce,

Missouri Valley, discussed the impact the dues increase has had on their LSC enrollment. In 2003 prior to the dues increase, 40% of their athletes were seasonal swimmers. In 2004, MV lost 627 athletes after the increase. Colorado and Iowa also have expressed concern about the loss of these athletes and how it is adversely affecting their membership. It is currently much cheaper for these athletes to join AAU or a YMCA or just swim somewhere without insurance than to pay the USA Swimming dues. George made a motion that the Central Zone ask Ron Van Pool to appoint a special committee or task force to address the dues increase impact on the seasonal program. The motion was seconded by Bob Staab. Following discussion, the motion was passed unanimously. Ron was contacted and is in agreement to this idea. It was recommended that George be part of the appointed group.

- USA Swimming Support of LSCs: Great support has been given to Minnesota by Randy Julian and Pat Hogan. Clubs/LSC's having issues with the athletes right to participate have received tremendous support from USA Swimming. This positive relationship and the communication between national headquarters and the LSCs are much appreciated.