



Central Zone Newsletter

Fall 2005

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Season's Greetings, Central Zone Colleagues and Friends!



We hope you are all finished with your last-minute shopping frenzy and are gearing up for some very special holiday celebrations with family and friends these next few weeks. Perhaps, during this time, you will have a few relaxing moments to read up on all the news from the Central Zone.

First of all, many thanks to all of this year's USAS convention delegates. You are a remarkable group of volunteers who are willing to give up five days of your "normal life" to share your expertise and enthusiasm for the betterment of swimming. We enjoyed seeing all of you in Greensboro and thank you for your ideas and contributions particularly during the energetic discussions at our Central Zone meetings. Your efforts will result in some very positive changes for our zone in 2006 and beyond.

Since September's convention, the Central Zone general chairs have participated in a conference call, your zone directors attended the November meeting of the USA Swimming Board of Directors in New York City, and planning for the 2006 and 2007 Central Zone Championship meets has continued to progress. These are a few of the topics that you will read about in this newsletter. As always, please feel free to contact either of us for more information or with questions and comments.

Lastly, we wish you and your family a most memorable holiday season and a new year filled with health and happiness. We're excited about having the opportunity to work with all of you in 2006.

*Sincerely,
Arlene and Eric
Central Zone Directors*

CZ Officers

Arlene McDonald
Eric Nelson
Betty Kooy
Mike Lewellyn
Lisa Ellis
Julie Youngquist
Tony Young
Mike Tchoukaleff
Paul Jones
Sarah Sofelt

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CZ Happenings

2006 and 2007 CZ Championships

After much discussion at convention and a follow-up conference call among the CZ general chairs, the zone meet team assignments and sites for the next **two** years were finalized in November. The teams competing in **Oklahoma City (8/3-8/6, 2006)** will be Arkansas, Illinois, Midwestern, Missouri Valley, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Ozark, and South Dakota. The teams assigned to **Indianapolis in 2006 (8/10-8/13)** are Indiana, Iowa, Lake Erie, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

In **2007 (8/2-8/5)**, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Lake Erie, Midwestern, Ohio, and Oklahoma will be attending the meet at **Cleveland State University**. Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri Valley, North Dakota, Ozark, South Dakota, and Wisconsin will compete in **Topeka (8/9-8/12)**. The open water dates for all meets will be in the respective meet entry letters.

A special thank you to Kate Chronic (IL) who so bravely chaired the site selection committee at this year's convention, and to committee members Bob Merchant (MI) and Jack Jackson (MW) for achieving the goal of awarding and assigning the meets two years out as had been previously requested by CZ delegates.

Speedo Championship Meets

Spring 2006

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|
| Chicago, IL | Mar 9-11 | Open |
| Canton, OH | Mar 16-19 | Open |
| Oklahoma City, OK | Mar 2-5 | 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.

Other Central Zone Championship Meet News

- **Central Zone Championship Coordinators:** As per legislation passed at this year's convention, the zone Age Group Coordinator and Assistant Age Group Coordinators positions have been renamed "Championship Coordinators." The duties of these positions basically remain that same which is to oversee the successful preparation and operation of our two Central Zone Championship meets. In 2006, Lisa Ellis will be the Zone Championship Coordinator attending the Oklahoma City meet, while Mike Lewellyn will be attending the Indianapolis site. After the first of the year, Lisa and Mike will be contacting the respective meet directors to schedule a site visit and commence planning for the 2006 meets. Additionally, Lisa and Mike are working on a template for the zone meet evaluation report, a rough draft of which will be shared during the January conference call of the CZ general chairs.
- **Zone Meet Format & Recommendations for Change:** During the November conference call of the CZ general chairs, it was suggested that it may be time to re-think the format and conduct of our zone championship meets. Since zone meeting time at convention is so limited and decisions are sometimes made in haste, it was suggested that discussions for change should be initiated at the LSC level with ideas generated there sent out to delegates in advance of convention. This process would allow more time for analysis and input prior to arriving at convention. There was a general consensus among the GCs that this would be a good practice to implement. Kate Chronic (in collaboration with Arlene McDonald) has agreed to construct a questionnaire to be distributed to all Central Zone LSCs next spring. General chairs will be asked to set aside time at their LSC board of directors meetings to solicit ideas and responses to the questionnaire. Those responses will be consolidated and distributed to the LSCs delegates before next fall's convention.

USA Swimming Board of Directors Meeting

November 2005

The USA Swimming Board of Directors met on Sunday, November 13, 2005, at The Barkley in Manahattan. Central Zone Directors Eric Nelson and Arlene McDonald were in attendance. Below are meeting notes that reflect the discussion and business at the meeting.

Announcements: Tom Wilkins has resigned from the board; no new records had been broken since the September meeting.

Treasurer's Report: There have been some LSCs that have been negligent in their financial reporting to USA Swimming. All LSCs must send the following to headquarters: 990s, Articles of Incorporation, and verification of tax-exempt status with the state. There will be a proposal at the January meeting to establish an enforcement mechanism to hold LSCs accountable for getting these reports in to USA Swimming.

Reports:

- Executive Committee: There will be a motion for approval of the SWIMS policies and guidelines at the January BOD meeting. The YMCA is seriously considering

adopting USA Swimming technical rules. A decision will be made at their April meeting. There will be an open water technical planning meeting in December to discuss the 2008 Olympics. Five LSCs have not entered any meets in SWIMS since September 1. Zone Directors were asked to communicate with LSC leaders to ask that meets be entered into SWIMS within two weeks of the completion of competition. So far, registrations are up about 6%. This may be the result of people becoming better at using SWIMS. There continues to be activity concerning interpretation of the recent breaststroke rule changes.

- Katrina Task Force: Through November 1, about 2,000 athletes have requested relocation.
- USA Swimming Foundation: The USA Swimming Foundation Board of Directors is meeting on Tuesday, November 15. Currently, the board is working on a adopting a strategic plan. More tables have been sold for tomorrow night's Golden Goggles than last year. The Foundation has played a large role in that increase.
- Masters: USMS is currently searching for an executive director.
- ASCA: Appreciation was expressed to the board for approving an ex-officio board position to ASCA.

- FINA/Open Water: The addition of open water to the 2008 Olympic program was unusual in that decisions on events are rarely made when we are already into the quad. Everett Uchiyama, National Team Director, gave a presentation titled "Open Water Olympic Planning" which included Everett's thoughts on team selection, technical planning, and funding. There are still many unknowns about 2008 and open water.
- FINA: The first FINA World Swimming Conference scheduled for October in Miami was cancelled due to uncertainties with the approach of Hurricane Wilma. The intent is to keep the conference and agenda "alive" although FINA has not yet set a date to reschedule the conference.
- Travel: Jim Harvey, Managing Director of Financial Affairs for USA Swimming, explained the new agreement with Polk Majestic Travel and outlined the benefits of program. Mike Unger, Chief Operating Officer, discussed the new travel policies that will be in effect for all travel related to USA Swimming business.
- USOC: Chuck Wielgus, Executive Director, stated that we still do not know what our 2006 USOC funding will be.

Task Forces:

Background Screening:
Below is a written update from this task force. *The Background Screening Task Force (Murray Stevens, Chair/Pat Hogan, Staff Contact) is meeting on November 20 & 21 to interview and see presentations from the two finalist companies. These two companies have met our requirements of seamless integration into the SWIMS system, privacy of information and process standards. Each of these steps is designed to minimally impact our non-athlete members while helping to create an environment which protects our athletes and non-athlete members. We have asked these two companies to demonstrate during the meeting how an individual will request and pay (via credit card or Paypal) for their screening, how this individual will receive the results of the screening before it is forwarded to USA Swimming and the company's ability to handle customer service needs. In this format, the individual being screened will have the opportunity to challenge incorrect information found in the screening process before it used or forwarded. We believe this will help our members to ensure accurate results are used by USA*

Swimming and protect the individual's privacy. Once the information is forwarded from the screening company, any individuals found to have a criminal record for items specified in our Code of Conduct as disqualifiers to membership, will have their results forwarded directly from the screening company to our outside legal partner (no disclosure to the team or local level) for additional investigation and any subsequent action(s) as is the current process. Members whose background screening is "clear", will have their SWIMs membership record electronically updated and their membership processed. These are the plans at the current time, please contact any member of the Task Force with any questions.

- Outreach: The position of Diversity Coordinator for USA Swimming is being advertised. The goal is to have the position filled by the end of January.
- Males in Swimming: This task force has completed its work and is formulating a report for the January BOD meeting.
- Charitable Causes Requests: A proposal was brought forth by the task force and approved by the BOD. Essentially, the purpose of the task force was to formulate a financial control mechanism for consideration of requests for charitable causes. This task force has completed its work.

- Governance Implementation Task Force: This task force was charged to review the governance legislation that was passed at the 2005 HOD meeting and set up a plan for implementing the changes that were approved. The task force has completed its work. A Governance Committee will be appointed to continue the work on the implementation process.
- Other task forces either being created or continuing their work are: Athletes Leadership Development, Athletes Convention Participation, Outreach, Legal Representation, China, and Membership Marketing.

Action Items: Action items included USA Swimming Incorporation in Colorado, All-American Recognition for Swimmers with Disabilities, the USA Swimming Travel Policy, and a USADA Coach nominee.

New Business: Bruce Wigo addressed the board seeking support for the International Swimming Hall of Fame. The board approved appointing a task force to study this issue.

Staff Reports: The following are highlights from the staff reports. So far 60 tables have been sold for tomorrow's Golden Goggles; 625 people are expected to attend. USA Swimming has been asked to have a kiosk at the Nationals Sports Museum being planned in lower Manhattan. The

November BOD Continued:

Business Development Division has put together a media guide pamphlet to attract media attention. The television plans for 2006 include three hours of NBC coverage of the Pan Pacs, which are being funded by Mutual of Omaha, Toyota, and Speedo. There is a brainstorming day for staff scheduled on December 6 to look at our National Championships. An update to that will be given at the January meeting. Membership numbers are up 7.2%. Convention recommendations to keep the banquet as is and move the welcome reception one night later will be adopted.

Carol Tweedy, Executive Director of Asphalt Green, joined the BOD for lunch and explained their mission and programming. This was followed by a tour of the Asphalt Green facility.

Please email Eric (enelson@wichitaswimclub.org) or Arlene (arlenemcd@aol.com) for more details or questions about the BOD meeting.

Central Zone LSC General Chair Elections

During this past fall's LSC elections, three Central Zone general chairs "retired." Special kudos to Tom Jones (Arkansas), Dale Nickels (Wisconsin), and Gerry Pfau (North Dakota) for their many years of service as general chairs in their respective LSCs and leaders in the CZ!

Congratulations to these newly elected general chairs: Ed Gbur (Arkansas), Drew Weldon (Wisconsin), and Grant Richardson (North Dakota).