



## USA Swimming

### Central Zone General Chairs & Officers Conference Call December 19, 2007

#### SUMMARY NOTES

The Central Zone General Chairs and Officers met by conference call on Wednesday evening, December 19, 2007. The following is a summary of that call.

**1. Participants** were: Ed Gbur (AR), Elaine Sorter (IA), Mary Losee (MW), John Dicus (MV), Jay Nimens (ND), Bob Staab (OK), Bill Schalz (IL), Arlene McDonald (IN), Randy Julian (CZ Sport Development Consultant), Betty Kooy (MW), John Witzel (MN), Lisa Ellis (MW), Kate Chronic (former CZ Championship Meet Coordinator), and Allison Terry (LSC Coordinator Vice Chair)

#### **2. Reports & Information**

- Randy Julian, Central Zone Sport Development Consultant, shared the following information:
  - (1) The Central Zone is leading the other Zones with the number of clubs participating in the USA Swimming club recognition program.
  - (2) Randy requested that all LSCs have a link to USA Swimming's club recognition page front and center on their websites. Randy will send the link.
  - (3) If any Grand Prix host clubs have information to distribute to coaches and assistant coaches via Randy's CZ blast emails, please send that information to Randy so that it can be included.
  - (4) Please send Randy dates and locations of long course meets being held in your LSC through May 5 that would be appropriate events for athletes to attempt to achieve Olympic Trials cuts.
  
- Alison Terry, USA Swimming Board of Directors Athlete Representative; LSC Coordinator Vice Chair, spoke with participants about her role on the USA Swimming board and assistance that she can provide LSC General Chairs and Athlete Reps.
  - (1) Alison asked that all Central Zone General Chairs include a discussion about athlete involvement in their LSCs on their next meeting's agenda. This could include an "athlete report card" type of activity.
  - (2) At the request of the GCs, Alison will work on job descriptions for LSC Athlete Reps and get them to the Zone Directors for distribution to GCs.
  - (3) Alison will also work on a document that discusses the criteria that should be used in athlete elections as well as accountability issues for athlete reps. This will be distributed via the Zone Directors.
  - (4) Alison also has asked that General Chairs email her their athlete attendance after each LSC board meeting. Her email address is [swimer619@aol.com](mailto:swimer619@aol.com)
  - (5) Lastly, all general chairs are asked to send their LSC athlete representatives names and email addresses to Arlene so that an accurate document can be constructed and passed along to Alison.

### 3. Old Business

- 2008 Central MegaZone Championships Update –Arlene McDonald: The Central MegaZone Championship website is up and running at [www.allgreatracers.com](http://www.allgreatracers.com) Currently, there is an online hotel reservation system, an opening day schedule of events, and the order of events for the pool competition posted on the site. Other information:
  - All-session pre-sale tickets will be available for online purchase beginning March 1 Send all questions to Arlene at [arlenemcd@aol.com](mailto:arlenemcd@aol.com).
  - Also, please email Arlene the name and contact information for your LSCs Zone Championship contact (team manager, head coach, etc.).
  - Lastly, LSCs need to be identifying their candidates for the All-Time Central Zone Team as per the decision at this year's convention. The criteria and process are as follows:

*At the 2008 Central MegaZone Championship Meet in Indianapolis, the Central Zone will announce its inaugural All-time Central Zone Team members. To be eligible for this honor, an athlete must be nominated by his/her "home" LSC and meet one of the following criteria:*

    1. *Have set two or more individual Central Zone records (in any age group)*
    2. *Have swum a CZ Championship time that was ranked #1 nationally for that season*
    3. *Have been a CZ Championship meet participant who has gone on to qualify for one or more of these USA Swimming teams: Junior National Team, Senior National Team, USA Olympic Team*
    4. *If an LSC has no automatic qualifiers based on #1-3 above, the LSC will nominate one male and one female athlete to represent the LSC on the All-Time Central Zone Team.*

*Note: It will be up to each LSC to research all CZ Championship meet results to identify and nominate its automatic qualifiers. This identification process needs to be completed by July 1, 2008, and sent to both Central Zone Directors (Arlene & Bill) as well as Betty Kooy, Zone Secretary.*
- Convention Legislation Modifications – Kate Chronic & Betty Kooy: Since convention, it became evident that some "housekeeping" needed to be done to the adopted legislation. If no LSCs object to the housekeeping modifications by 15 days from today, the revised wording will automatically be adopted and posted in the convention minutes.
- Championship Meet Coordinator Appointments for 2008 and 2008-2009: Lisa Ellis (MW) has agreed to fill the remaining 2008 term vacated by Kate Chronic because of her move to the Southern Zone. Tina McCauley (LE) has been appointed for the 2008-2009 term.
- LSC Financial Reporting: As of today, only three CZ LSCs have submitted the required financial reporting documents for their 2006 calendar year to USA Swimming. They are Lake Erie, Michigan, and Midwestern. LSCs are reminded to submit the proper information in a timely fashion and as required by USA Swimming.

### 4. New Business

- U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Swimming
  - A. 2 & 3-Day Ticket Packages now on sale at [www.h2omaha.com](http://www.h2omaha.com)

B. Event Merchandise also available for purchase at [www.h2omaha.com](http://www.h2omaha.com)

C. Opportunity for Box Suites – 18 seats for all 15 sessions; includes hospitality services. We are currently seeking 3 Central Zone LSCs to partner in purchasing a box suite for Trials for \$7,000 per LSC. Currently, the box suites are the only remaining available tickets in the lower “bowl” of the venue. They are located at the start-end of the pool. The 3 LSCs would each have 6 tickets for all 15 sessions in the box suite. The price also includes hospitality services. Please email Bill and Arlene no later than January 31 if your LSC is interested in purchasing a suite with two other Central Zone LSCs (first come, first served basis). There are many creative ways your LSC could use these seats including entertaining potential sponsors; recognizing athletes, volunteers, and parents of Trials qualifiers; inviting spouses and families of Olympic Trials coaches; contests; drawings; etc.

➤ Central Zone Planning for 2008:

A. Conference Calls and Board Meetings: In the past, the General Chairs & Officers conference calls have been scheduled the week before each USA Swimming Board of Directors meeting. It was suggested that this year, the calls be held after the meetings to facilitate timely communication about meeting discussions and decisions. Therefore, the plan for this coming year will be this: Arlene and Bill will send out the agendas to the board meetings to all general chairs and zone officers as soon as they receive them. General Chairs and Officers can then send them any feedback regarding the agenda topics prior to the meeting. Then, Arlene and Bill will schedule a follow-up conference call after the meeting to discuss important issues. The next BOD meeting is Saturday, January 26, in Omaha.

B. Sectional Meet Task Force: Communication regarding sectional meets has been an ongoing challenge nationwide. The Central Zone, with input from the USA Swimming National Events Director, is forming a task force to study the governance of Sectional meets and make recommendations for improvement. The following Central Zone folks were nominated for this task force: Paul Thompson (OK), Sarah Stallkamp (MN), Bill Schalz (IL), Dave Anderson, Mark Hesse (IN), Jim Anderson, John Witzel (MN), Arlene McDonald (IN), and Paul Jones (MI). Paul has been asked to chair this group. The nominees will be notified, and Paul, Bill, and Arlene will get a conference call scheduled sometime in February.

C. Convention – Please be thinking ahead to the 2008 USAS Convention and soliciting qualified candidates for the elected and appointed positions within the Zone. Also, please be identifying potential host clubs and sites for the 2010 Central Zone Championship Meets.

- Elections: Central Zone Director Non-Coach, Secretary-Treasurer, & Athlete Rep
- Appointments: Championship Meet Coordinator, Officials Assistant Coordinator, Disability Swimming Coordinator
- Sites for 2010 Central Zone Championship Meets

D. Manual Revisions will be complete and posted before the end of January.

E. Other Focus Areas for 2008: The Central Zone officials chairs are willing to help recruit officials for Grand Prix meets in the CZ by posting applications on the CZ website. Contact Paul Jones or John Witzel if you are interested in doing this.

- Upcoming National & Zone Events in the Central Zone
  - A. Grand Prix – University of Missouri (February 15 LCM)
  - B. Speedo Championship Series (Region 8 LCM - Closed):  
Columbia, MO (February 28 – March 2)
  - C. Speedo Championship Series (Region 1 SCY): Waukesha, WI (March 6-9)
  - D. Speedo Championship Series (Section 3 LCM): Indianapolis (March 27-30)
  - E. Grand Prix – Ohio State University (April 3 LCM)
  - F. Mutual of Omaha Swimvitational – Grand Prix (June 5 - 8 LCM)
  - G. US Olympic Team Trials – Swimming: Omaha (June 29-July 6)
  - H. Central Zone MegaZone Championships – Indianapolis (August 6-10)
  - I. U.S. Open – Minneapolis (July 29)
  - J. Speedo Junior National Championships – Minneapolis (August 4)

5. The call was adjourned about 9:00 PM (Central).

### **Summary of General Chair "Tasks":**

- Put a link on your LSC home page to the USA Swimming Club Recognition information
- Send Randy any information you would like him to include in his Zone blast emails regarding upcoming Grand Prix Meets
- Send Randy dates and locations of all long course meets being held in your LSC prior to May 5
- Add a discussion about athlete involvement in your LSC to the agenda of your next LSC BOD meeting (Athlete Report Card)
- Email Alison Terry your athlete rep attendance after every LSC board meeting
- Email Arlene the names and contact information of all current athlete reps on your LSC board
- Email Arlene the names and contact information for your LSC Zone team manager and head coach for the 2008 MegaZone meet
- By July 1, send the names and contact information for your LSC automatic qualifiers for the All Central Zone team to be announced this summer to Betty, Arlene, and Bill
- Check to see if your LSC has submitted the required financial documents to USA Swimming for your 2006 calendar year
- By January 31, notify Bill and Arlene if your LSC is interested in partnering to purchase a box suite at this summer's Olympic Trials (Don't miss this amazing opportunity!)
- Be looking for the agenda for the January USA Swimming board meeting sometime in the next few weeks and send any input to Arlene and Bill
- Be thinking about qualified candidates for elected and appointed Zone positions
- Be soliciting meet hosts and sites for the 2010 CZ Championship meets
- Send officiating applications to Paul or John for your Grand Prix meets
- SUPPORT ALL THE WONDERFUL EVENTS BEING HELD IN THE CENTRAL ZONE THIS YEAR – PARTICULARLY THE 2008 US OLYMPIC TRIALS – SWIMMING THAT WILL BE HELD RIGHT HERE IN THE CZ!