



IMMEDIATE PAST GENERAL CHAIR REPORT 2019 HOUSE of DELEGATES

I believe that this is my final report to the membership. Luke Day has served as an outstanding General Chair. He will now assume the role of Immediate Past General Chair as I step down. It has been a privilege for me and something I have enjoyed greatly.

I feel very good about the MNSI leadership going into the next year. In particular, I believe there are some remarkably strong women who will be joining the board. In addition, there are several board positions with multiple candidates. In my opinion, every one of those candidates, whether elected or not needs to end up on a committee. It would be terribly unfortunate to not make use of all of that talent. The MNSI committees are in great need of such energy. Which leads me to a point that I have made repeatedly – the MNSI committees are critically important to the success of the organization.

Take a few minutes to look at the Committee page on the mns swim.org website.

Ask yourself – why are so many committee meetings listed as TBD? Why do so many committees indicate not having held meetings for months or even years.

Ask yourself – can we do better?

I initiated several policy proposals for this House of Delegates. Because of time constraints for the House, I am withdrawing those proposals and will resubmit to the Board of Directors. But I want the House to understand why I think these are important issues:

1. Budgeting

MNSI has been, I believe, committed to supporting and improving the sport for the athletes. There are any number of initiatives and programs from facility grants to travel reimbursement to athlete leadership to development of officials. These things don't simply happen. They require money and resources. There are committees that should be directly interested and involved in figuring out what money and resources are needed. Those committees should be a perfect opportunity for interested members to speak up about what resources are needed and why.

So why are committees not doing that?

Go look. Try to figure out which committees actually met and discussed what budget was needed for the programs and services of that committee for the next fiscal year.

If you are not satisfied with how MNSI resources are being allocated, ask yourself whether a committee was involved in the decision-making process. If a committee was not involved – why not?

If a committee was involved – was the committee process open and transparent.

2. Planning

I also put forth a proposal regarding “pop-up” meets. These are those smaller (less than 4 teams) meets that get added at random times throughout the course of a season. Maybe there are some decent reasons why these meets are not on the schedule at the beginning of the season. Maybe.

But I have heard continuing and repeated criticisms that the meet schedule is too random and disjointed. That there are too many meets. That meets are poorly attended because there are so many. That the swimmers don't get enough competition. The criticisms go on.

Once again, I think attention should go back to the committees I mentioned above. Why are those committees not talking about the meet schedule and the quality of the meets? If those committees don't meet then there really is no effective forum to look at the issue of planning the competition schedule.

MNSI does not “need” additional sanction fees. MNSI, to my knowledge, does not and should not want to “kill” those pop-up meets needed for a legitimate purpose.

However, MNSI should be able to promote and encourage better planning by those clubs that host meets. If our objective is to provide the best possible competitive opportunities for our athletes, why are we not able to fully plan out our competition schedule without the addition of so many small random pop-up meets?

We know MNSI can always improve. In the meantime MNSI is still one of the best LSC's in the country!

Jim Hanton