

## 2008 USAS Convention Report Drew Walden

During my General Chair's meetings the major topics discussed were the expected increase of 7-15 % in new swimmer registration attributed to the "**Michael Phelps**" effect, and what to do with all the new swimmers that have and will be joining USA Swimming clubs. Many LSC's and clubs have already seen a huge influx and are struggling to deal with so many novice level swimmers. The suggested solutions were varied and commonsense. The other topic was the new tentatively labeled LEAP program that USA swimming will be rolling out this year. LEAP is a LSC recognition program modeled after the club recognition program that is designed to help clubs, and now LSC's to evaluate their effectiveness and then help develop and implement plans and strategies to improve the LSC's work for it's membership. The concern voiced by USA Swimming staff and the board of directors is that, as with the Club recognition program, most LSC's won't voluntarily take part in the LEAP program. My guess is that there is a plan in the works to make it a mandatory program for each LSC to complete.

Also, due to many claims filed in different LSC's for financial malfeasances our insurance carrier will no longer cover LSC's that do not have a check and balance on their treasurers and LSC boards. No longer will they allow one person to take the money in and have that same person be the one writing the checks. This will be something our LSC will have to address.

### Club Development Committee Meeting

The committee saw an overview of USA Swimming's National membership trends and the new Club membership trends that will be available in a couple of months through each club's portal. This will give clubs a quick place to find and analyze membership information and spot any potential negative trends. The report section will eventually be expanded to include performance data. There was positive feedback given to the IM Racer program (Working title) which will be used as a stepping-stone to the IM Xtreme (IMX) program. This program will basically cut in half the distances swimmers compete in from IMX. A yearly recap was given on participation in the Club Recognition Program.

The LSC's with highest participation (at least working on Level 1):

Indiana 30 clubs, Illinois 25 clubs, **Wisconsin** has 4 clubs that have completed at least Level 1, Minnesota 2

**Scholastic All America-** Reported a successful change to the program by implementing a time standard for the performance component of the program. As a result, participation was down by 25% with over 925 athletes qualifying. Over 140 individuals qualified for their third straight year.

- **NAG records-** a "record" total of 104 NAG records have been broken so far in 2008. These records have been updated on the USA Swimming web site and certificates are being sent out. This information will also be submitted for the 2009 rulebook.

- **World, American, U.S. Open records-** between the Olympic trials and Olympic Games there were 20 World, 45 American, and 20 U.S. Open records broken.

-**Disability Recognition-** The T&R committee will continue its work of the past year to try to find ways to recognize the performance achievements by disabled athletes.

- **Age Group Recognition "Top 10"**- The preview lists for the 2007-2008 (9/1/2007-/31/2008) season has been sent to the tabulators. The lists will become official around the end of October. The information will be posted on [usaswimming.org](http://usaswimming.org) and published in Splash. The transition to using a single age recognition program has been well received. The committee will add 18 year-old athlete recognition for next year.

### Safety/Risk Management Workshop:

Michele Hilavasa, RN, MPH, an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention talked about recreational water illness, cryptosporidium (crypto) and chloramines that can cause problems in the pool. She stressed awareness, action and advocacy and encouraged the audience to visit their website.

**Attached is a packet of all the legislation and rules that was voted on by the House of Delegates.** Submitted by Drew Walden General Chair