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Convention Report 2013

The first day of convention the AEC tried to make the athletes feel welcome and gave a preview of what convention would be like. The next day the athlete's meeting they started with a Q&A with the AEC. Next they explained what national committees were and had every committee member explain what theirs does. Then the job of the National Board of Review. The Rules and Regulations Committee give an overview on the topics that were to be discussed throughout the week and give information so the athletes can make more informed decisions. The next meeting I attended the Eastern Zone meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were adopted, and a draft of the new bylaws were approved. Tech planning reported that the standard qualifying times for sectionals were adjusted to make an average that would get an even distribution between the three sectional meets. The meet bids were given: LC spring sectionals at Buffalo, Zones in Virginia. There was also discussion in the regards the date of summer sectionals, and the date that was tentatively discussed started July 24. Elections gave Paris Jacobs, Tristan Forman, and Pete Barry positions. It was decided t remove the Non-Coach Age Group Position. The officials chair was turned over, and there was discussion about expenses for non coaches at meets. Metro LSC brought up discussion about rules regarding last minute substitution at meets that was left undecided. The next day I attended the athlete's Safe Sport meeting. We were shown the training videos for athletes over 12. There is training for athletes, non-athletes, and parents. Then I was able to go to the open water seminar. They suggested many good ideas such as pool open water, having specific open water officials, and open water camps. There are many clinics to get people involved in open water. The next athlete's meeting prepared us for HOD, teaching parliamentary practices and provoking questions so the athletes could vote informed. Then Matt Farrell came in and talked to the athletes about media and how to better market swimming. The first segment of HOD held that evening was primarily made up of awards for people who have been instrumental in the sport of swimming and also included the President's report, and an address from the USA Foundation President. The next morning included a membership report which was positive, an insurance report, credentials report, then the USA Swimming Foundation report presented some videos. The state of the sport was overall positive: membership is up, and so is media and sponsorship. There was a Team USA video showed from Barcelona and showed the extremely positive performance from Worlds. SwimToday reported increased marketing to younger children. Then the budget was approved. After that the Rules and Regulations portion began. A majority of the Regulations were passed without discussions, but there were a few that were pulled for discussion. The rule regarding sanctioning meets in other LSCs now having an appeals process was amended and adopted. The new guidelines for sectionals were amended and adopted, including changes in length of meet and time standards. Zone

Board of Reviews were established and take the place of smaller LSC Boards. The idea for a biannual convention was defeated.

While at convention, I was talking with some other athletes and came across a good idea to increase athlete involvement and participation in the LSC. The idea was to charge each club in the LSC \$200 in for House of Delegates. If the club brought a coach representative they would be refunded \$100, and if they brought an athlete rep they would be refunded another \$100. While the idea could be altered based on our LSC, this is something I think we should consider because it would be good motivation for more well rounded LSC participation.