US Aquatic Sports Convention 2017
Dallas, Texas
Marie Koenigsfeld, Iowa Swimming Times Coordinator

The USAS Convention was very informative this year. Detailed below are the meetings and workshops I attended. In addition, attending allowed me to talk with representatives from other LSCs and members of our own LSC which due to schedules rarely allow. I believe my attendance at Convention has brought, once again, a better understanding of the workings of USA Swimming and Iowa Swimming. I am looking to move Iowa Swimming with what I learned this past September.

I attended the Registration and Membership Committee meeting to learn more regarding the new proposals for Flex Memberships and Junior Coaches. How would these be handled within SWIMS? What would be the recommended roll dates be?

The TIMES Workshop explained the new USA Swimming LSC Portals and the reports that previously had to be generated through SWIMS. They are now available and easier in the portals. This will save a lot of time for LSC Top 16 and Record generation. There was also discussion regarding the proposed Flex membership and how to track the number of meets attended during recons.

The Sneak Peek of Deck Pass on Team Unify was okay. I was hoping for more information on how they were planning to conduct the verification of information on both SWIMS and Team Unify databases and how as Times Officer and Jen as Registration Chair, we would conduct this with our clubs. It will need to be done first prior so that the two databases may be merged. Not much information was given.

Rules and Regulations Committee meeting was very informative as to the proposals being submitted. There was a lot of discussion regarding new board make up and governance changes. I was impressed by the knowledge of the discussion and absorbed the ideas of both sides.

Thursday morning I continued with the Rules and Regulations Committee. Again, very informative as to the true meaning and consequences/implantation of the proposals for HOD.

Our Iowa Swimming Athlete Reps and I had a lunch meeting to discuss their experiences and ideas at the convention. They all were very impressed by the National Athlete Members and wished to become more involved. They also expressed to me that Iowa Swimming needs to become more involved at the athlete level. There are so many opportunities for athletes at the Central Zone and National level to truly become involved with their sport. The athletes are hungry to get involved at all levels. They presented ideas for a new logo and for polo shirts to be made for the attendees. The athletes had talked in their meetings about the impending proposals and had mixed feelings regarding the flex membership and more questions about the Junior Coach. Although all agreed the Junior Coach was a great idea.

The Open Forum on Technical Suits in Age Group Swimming was a fantastic discussion of the issues from coaches around the nation. I learned so many different viewpoints on this issue. I am not sure there is a single “right” answer for every swimmer and every club. I am eager to see what USA Swimming does in the future.

Phil, Curt, Grace and I attended the Swimposium meeting to discuss and brainstorm our plans for the 2018 Swimposium. It was also attended by Minnesota which hosted a very successful Swimposium previously. We all learned the ins and outs of the USA Swimming-LSC relationship and how to build a great weekend for our members. I am very excited to be a part of this and look forward to the planning to come in the future.

The Times and Recognition Committee meeting discussed the upcoming proposals and how these would affect Times Officers. There was also discussion regarding the inclusion of the Mixed Relay into National Records. I spent time networking and discussing with other Times Officers how their LSCs operate.

The House of Delegates meeting on Friday evening was highlighted by the gift of a Lifetime Membership to Phil Barnes. We learned of the amazing achievements of USA Swimming throughout the past year including the Budapest Worlds and the work the USA Swimming Foundation has done. There is such a need in Iowa to bring the “Make A Splash” program and communicate this to our communities. Grants are available! And Swim Clubs have the opportunity to raise funds while participating in a unique fundraiser and earning additional money for their clubs.

The conclusion of the convention was, as always, the USA Swimming House of Delegates. As stated previously, I learned so much of the philosophy regarding each proposal being passed or rejected. I left with a much better understanding of the governance of USA Swimming, what to look forward to in the future regarding Flex and Junior Coaching, plus the additional officiating rule changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend once again. I hope my experience this year will further the shared goals of Iowa Swimming and USA Swimming.

Sincerely,

Marie Koenigsfeld
Iowa Swimming Registration Coordinator