

2019 USA Swimming Convention Report

Submitted by Donald P. Spellman (substituting for Brian Ruffles – ISI Senior Coaching Representative).

September 11, 2019

1. Central Zone Region 1 / Coaches Meeting – Time standards and format changes (focusing on bonus events) to the CZ Sectionals Meets were discussed. Coach Mike Lawrence (IL.) is working on updating the time standards for both SCY and LCM formats. These new standards will be posted on the Central Zone website once they are approved.
2. Senior Development Comm. – This panel discussed the dates and formats of the Pro Series events and National meets.
3. Keynote Address – Trevor Moawad – This was an interesting speech and demonstration by life coach and the leader of the Moawad Consulting Groups. Mr. Moawad has worked with professional athletes, actors, and leaders in business to help them develop “mental conditioning skills” for their respective professions.
4. I met with candidates for the USA-Swimming Board of Directors following dinner with a few coach delegates from the Central Zone, Southern Zone, and California.

September 12, 2019

1. LGBTQIA+ Affinity Breakfast – Special Guest Speaker was Veronica Malone (former Head Coach of the Kansas City Blazers Swim Club and current Vice-President of PFLAG in Kansas City). Veronica was named Pete Malone prior to her transition to a female in 2017.
2. Central Zone Business Meeting – Zones cites and future bids were discussed. We elected new Zone officers and representatives to the Zones Board of Review. Coach Michael White of WI. was elected as the new CZ Coach Representative.
3. USAS Foundation Meeting.
4. Facilities Development Dept. – Panel of Experts
5. Dinner & Drinks with three BOD candidates.

September 13, 2019

1. Mighty Mid Reunion (LSC's in the middle 1/3 of size for USA-S). The discussion in this meeting centered on things that have helped LSC membership grow, what positive changes any have seen in programming and competitions, LEAP criteria, and what factors problems LSC's need to fix over the next Olympic cycle.
2. Vendor Demonstrations
3. Coaches Forum – Topics included discussions about developing future male middle distance and distance swimmers for our national teams (training / planning progression) and upcoming pieces of legislation (mainly dues increases).

4. Meet the Candidates – Panel Discussion (USA-S Board of Directors Candidates).
5. House of Delegates – Part 1 (Awards and State of The Sport Overview by CEO Tim Hinchey and USA-S Board Chairperson Bob Vincent).
6. LSC Dinner

September 14, 2019

1. House of Delegates – Part 2 – Elections were held for the Board of Directors. Legislation was adopted concerning definitions of Closed Competitions, the operation of Finals sessions at national meets, requirements for observed swims, athlete abuse prevention policies, and the scope of LSC and Zone boards of review. A full list of adopted legislation is posted on the USA-Swimming website.
2. Watched and extended version of the Iowa vs. ISU football game (weather delays).

Notes & Observations: Quite a bit of the legislation proposed was to clarify language in order to better reflect FINA competition rules.

Our new Board of Directors structure seems to be working better than our former bloated configuration. The Committees seem to be more active and engaged with membership.

The proposed increases to annual club registration fees was tabled due to questions about how the funding would be used. Many wanted clarification on what services and plans from Club Development. I am fearful that much of the money will be passed upwards to settle future lawsuits.

ASCA and USA-Swimming need to do a better job training new and younger coaching in ethics. We have problems with intimidation and recruiting within various LSCs and these issues undermine the objectives stated in our mission statement.

Our new CEO has a lot of work to do in order to fix many bad decisions made during the past two decades.

9/30/19