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New England Swimming
Harvard-Pilgrim Center - Wellesley, Massachusetts
February 10, 2014 - Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Board Members:

Present: Arthur Athanas (YNS), Joe Bernal (BGSC), Christie Batchelor (ABF), Chuck Batchelor (ABF), Jamie Bloom (WYST), Carl Cederquist (CRIM), Matt Craven (SAC), Priscilla Davis (UN-NE), Joe Frazier (UN), Ray Grant (SSA), Nadine Johnson-Jesioneck (UN), Ali Lie (EVO), Judi Lombardi (NSSC), Paul Memont (UN), Bob Menck (UN), Rick Osterberg (UN), Chris Sheppard (CRA), Tori Weinstock (PSC)

Absent: Sarah Bartholomae (SAC), Chris Downing (CRA), Laura Matusak (GMA),

Guests:

Lisa Black (UN), Nicole Carter (EVO), Bo Craven (SAC), Kathy Dacey (UN), Ken Galica (UN), Carol Healey (NES-Office), Mary Riddell (UN), Mary Ellen Tynan (PSC), Dan Warner (NSSC)

7:05 pm – Quorum (18/21) Established –

1. BOD Meeting Called to Order by Ray Grant, General Chair

2. Secretary's Report, Judi Lombardi: Minutes for the January 7, 2014 meeting reviewed. Priscilla Davis identified a few typographical errors. Motion to approve Secretary's report for 1/7/2014 with typographical corrections made by Matt Craven and seconded by Bob Menck. *Motion Passes 18-0*

3. Treasurer's Report, Carol Healey: Carol presented current balances on accounts. All current treasury reports as of 2/10/2014 are on file at the New England Swimming Office and available upon request. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Rick Osterberg, seconded by Matt Craven. *Motion Passes 18-0.*

4. Annual Meeting, Ray Grant: Ray shared that he sent out an email to all 21 members of the BOD with information and possible changes to the annual HOD meeting. He received only 4 responses back and reminded everyone that although we are all busy, we have committed to our positions and should take the time to respond. With that said, he reported that the Annual HOD meeting is set for Saturday, May 3rd. However, the time is being changed to 3 pm to accommodate our swimmers taking SAT's and our coaches who hold Saturday Morning practices. Other meetings, such as, Officials, etc., can be set up between 1-3 pm before the HOD meeting.

5. Regional Meet Report, Jamie Bloom: Jamie reported that it all seemed to have gone well with the exception of the award debacle at UVAC and a vendor debacle at Simmons.

- a Matt Craven- My meet at Keefe Tech went well but letting kids in with the higher times even if swimming exhibition made it a bit harder. He also recommends getting numbers out earlier from teams so we can make sure our vendors have enough t-shirts since we were out quickly.
- b Arthur Athanas- Our meet at YNS was fine. The morning was definitely more crowded but all ok.
- c Chris Sheppard – Our sessions at Simmons were short but we don't have enough space on deck for more swimmers. Other than some printer issues when we lost power, it all worked out fine.
- d Dan Warner – Our meet at Salem was fine.
- e Ray Grant – Our meet at Seekonk was fine but I think the Age Group kids have no business being at this meet. I think it sends the wrong message.
- f Carol Healey- I have tons of surveys that I will be distributing to sites but what I have seen so far is that kids love this meet and most parents love it as well.
- g Ray Grant – Reporting on UVAC Site – They received both clearly marked boxes of medals for Regionals and 12 & unders at the same time. During the Regional meet, they gave away all the larger Age Group Medals to Regional winners. Therefore, we have no 12 & under medals to distribute at Age Groups at this time. We contacted Hasty Awards and the best that they can do is 6 weeks. We are tossing around a few ideas on possibly giving 12 & unders the 13-18 medals and giving 13-18 Age Groups Bag Tags. Christie Batchelor believes that kids would prefer a smaller, regional size medal. Carol Healey is collecting back every one's extra medals and counting to see if there is enough Regional Medals to distribute at 13-18's. Dan Warner suggested ordering some bag tags and allowing the kids at 13-18's to choose since they get their medals on demand anyway. Board of Directors agrees with overall plan.

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6. **Calendar Committee – Matt Craven:** Matt reported that he has received no bids for 12 & unders or 13-18's for Summer LCM. He reported that if the board wishes, Dover is willing to run the 12 & under meet but they have to move it to Wednesday-Saturday for the 3 ½ day meet. Ray reported that Springfield and Williams are both out and Harvard is closed so we are limited in pools. YNS is looking at 13-18's and NES asked MIT to rent the pool but MIT declined the request. Niagara swimming also contacted NES asking to attend our LCM championship because they have no pools for their Age Group meet this summer either. Christie Batchelor suggested running the qualifiers at SCM pools and using the LCM pools for championships. Ray said that some of the qualifier sites are iffy still such as Springfield and McDermott. Right now, we only have commitments from MIT and Dover for qualifiers and Brown for Seniors and don't think we should penalize them for planning ahead by changing it on them. Ray suggested scrapping the qualifier meet format and making that weekend open so teams can choose where they go. It alleviates the complaints that those swimming at MIT have an advantage. Chuck Batchelor asked how far into Connecticut we are willing to travel for a pool? Dan Warner asked how many days the meet was and Jamie Bloom confirmed that it is 3 ½ days but we can shrink it to 3 days. Ray confirmed that the board is okay going with Dover, Wed-Saturday. Matt suggested that we eliminate circle seeding in case of inclement weather. Christie Batchelor thinks that the qualifier weekend adds symmetry between both seasons and allows all kids to swim, not just those teams that make it into a meet that weekend. Ray reiterated that we couldn't go to NSSC and Dover and tell them to move their dates. Matt Craven said that with less teams willing to take on this burden, we need to think about a bigger reward for hosting the championship meet since we have the money. Dan Warner offered to reach out to MIT again and confirmed the dates are for August 1, 2 and 3. Jamie agreed that we might need to eliminate the qualifier weekend since two pools are still in question. Currently, the qualifier weekend is set for July 11-13. Board agrees to give Dover the 12 & under meet for July 23-26th (Wed-Sat) and the elimination of qualifier weekend of July 11-13th, so those two pool confirmation can now host whatever type of meet they chose. Dan Warner (MIT) and Arthur Athanas (YNS) will get back to the BOD/Calendar Committee by the end of the week on whether either site can host the 13-18 LCM Age Group Championship on either the weekend of July 25-27 or Aug 1-3.
 7. **Meet Information and Time Standards for LCM Meets- Matt Craven:** The Calendar Committee presented a draft of the new NES Quad Plan. The plan is for 4 years and includes new types of meets. Chris Sheppard suggested that they clearly define the new meets before putting them out to bid. Ray reported that back in the day it was hard to find pools for Bronze-Silver-Gold format but now that our LSC has grown to over 8,000 swimmers, it maybe time to have the 3 levels of meets again. It will relieve the burden of both Regionals and Age Groups by taking some out of each. Carl Cederquist agrees that the Bronze-Silver-Gold plan is the way to go forward in the LSC. Ray asked the Calendar Committee to work with Age Groups and Seniors on the quad plan since the Silver meet should be held before Age Groups not afterwards. Matt Craven was unsure whether the Senior Elite Meet was a protected weekend. Carol Healey informed him that it is not protected and both meets service different swimmers. Ray said that these changes need to be made sooner rather than later as we need to get time standards out to everyone. We need to get ahead of the curve instead of always behind the curve. Chris Sheppard requested that we sink up the calendar cut-offs to match. For Age Groups, it is typically February or March of the year before and with Regionals it is always September, so some kids get to swim at Regionals that actually have cuts.
 8. **Annual Budget Preparation, Ray Grant:** Ray reported that everyone needs to get their annual budget preparation work done and submitted as soon as possible.
 9. **Elections:** There are multiple positions up this term – General Chair, Administrative Vice Chair, Financial Vice Chair, Secretary, Senior Chair, Senior Coach Representative and two Junior Athlete Representatives. Ray continued that he doesn't understand how the nominating committee gets to choose who goes up for a position. He thought the job was to gather biographical information. Priscilla stated that sometimes it is hard to find names of those who will run. Chris Sheppard stated that sometimes a potential board member won't run if someone is running against him/her and we vet them to make sure they fit in with the board. Ray states that he isn't coming down on the Nominating Committee but by putting up just one name it gives the impression that we are choosing who fills those spots instead of it being a true election and it is okay if you only have one name. The perception is that we are not as open as we think. Priscilla stated that she believes we are open. Bob Menck spoke that although it is hard to find names at times, he knows that a very qualified person was planning on running for a position. He submitted his name to the Nominating committee to run and before he

could gather up his biographical information, he received an email back stating that although they appreciate his interest, they already have someone for that position. Ray said that they will get all information up on the website this weekend for anyone who wants to run for a board position that is available this term.

10. Committee Reports:

- a. Officials: Paul Maker reported that there were 31 Deaf World Records at this first Deaf Championship in Rochester. They were very pleased with our officiating and Texas. They invited us to the next World Championships. Also, Paul Memont was selected as head starter at the Junior Pan-Pacs this summer, August 28-September 1 in Maui. Also, Bob Menck went through a selection process and was chosen to attend Open Championships April 10-14 in Fort Meyers.
- b. Coaches: Chris Sheppard reported that although they have numbers for the coaches' incentives presented at the last meeting. They need to collect more information to accurately put together their package for the board.
- c. Athletes: Tori Weinstock reported that they don't have an official report but are excited about some things they are working on for the near future.
- d. Safe Sport: Mariella Allard not in attendance.
- e. Safety: Priscilla Davis just reported that she has an extra poster available for anyone who would like it.
- f. Inclusion: Nadine Jesionek reported that although they are down a member, they are still looking to work with the athletes for Service Day. They are wanted to ask the Team Athlete representatives to assist with collecting equipment during Championship weekends and bring to the HOD in May. In addition, she is looking for feedback and suggestions from the BOD. Chris Sheppard agreed that the athletes are untapped potential.
- g. Office: Carol Healey reported that the Swimposium has been booked for October 4-6th so, she moved the banquet to the Marriot in Newton on the 6th. She feels it is closer to the Swimposium and although a bit more expensive, it will allow us to let all the athletes in who earned a spot instead of closing the number off on first come-first serve. In addition, she is looking for ideas and suggestions for Swimposium. Currently, she is hoping for one panel of College Coaches of Division 1-2-3 as well as a panel for Safe Sport. She is open to any ideas from coaches and officials.

11. Other Business:

Ray Grant: In spirit of fun, he shared the computer-challenged, Priscilla Davis's email regarding budget. "Put aside enough money for me to accomplish...." As she didn't understand how to do a request, a spreadsheet or even how her email turned red.

Paul Memont: Just wanted to inform everyone that he spoke to US Swimming and photographers are not required to be members of NES. They only have to have permission from the host club and are treated in the same manner as a timer on deck.

Bob Menck: Reported that they are half way through High School Championships and so far there have been 390 observations across the sectional meets and even conference championships.

Chuck Batchelor: Just looking for input as to why many are not coming to the elite meet in February. We are looking for input as to why and how we can make it better.

Matt Craven: Asked once we get it finalized, to get word out at championships about the quad plan.

Judi Lombardi: Just wanted to remind everyone to that their HOD Club Membership forms due December 31st allows team a vote and currently, we have 51 missing team forms. It is not to late to get them in the NES.

Joe Bernal: Asked when the 13-14's were going to know if they are being cut from the Age Group Meet. Ray responded that the board directed the AG Committee to come up the protocols and once entries close, we will know what/if any cut protocols need to be used. Chuck understands that we need to have something in place but need to protect our 13-14's.

MaryEllen Tynan: Now that we have a date, an email will be going out to each team soon, informing them to have their athlete rep at the HOD meeting.

Closing: Motion to adjourn made by Chris S, seconded by Priscilla Davis. Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully, submitted,
Judi Lombardi, Secretary
New England Swimming