

New England Swimming
Harvard-Pilgrim Center - Wellesley, Massachusetts
June 11, 2013 - Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

Board Members:

Present: Arthur Athanas (YNS), Christie Batchelor (ABF), Sarah Bartholomae (SAC), Joe Bernal (BGSC), Jamie Bloom (WYST), Priscilla Davis (UN-NE), Chris Downing (CRA), Joe Frazier (BGSC), Raymond Grant (SSA), Olivia Jameson (NSSC), Nadine Johnson-Jesonek (BEST), Judi Lombardi (NSSC), Laura Matusak (GMA), Rick Osterberg (UN-NE), Chris Sheppard (CRA), Tori Weinstock (PSC).

Absent: Chuck Batchelor (ABF), Matt Craven (SAC), Tim Murphy (MBM).

Guests:

Mariella Allard (UN-NE), Carl Cederquist (CRIM), Kathy Dacey (UN), Ken Galica (NWSC), Carol Healey (NES-Office), Paul Memont (SOLO), Bob Menck (UN-NE), Mary Riddell (UN-NE), Tim Thompson (HHS), Mary Ellen Tynan (PSC-NE), Dan Warner (NSSC)

7:00 pm – Quorum (12/21) Established - BOD Meeting Called to Order by Matt Craven, Admin Vice-Chair

1. **Welcome, Ray Grant:** Ray opened up by thanking Mariella Allard for her service as the Technical Chair and helping to move the LSC forward. In addition, he thanked Bob Menck for his service as the Officials chair for the last 7 years. Lastly, he thanked Olivia Jameson, Senior Athlete Representative for her service and wished her well in her college career. Continuing on, Ray reported that he wanted to dispel the rumors circulating regarding the election at the HOD meeting. He said that they are looking at New England Swimming's policies and reported that our LSC has outgrown the way we do elections. He acknowledged that there were ballots invalidated due to the fact that they were torn in half and another one that was written on a white piece of paper. Because the total ballots cast was less than the total number of delegates in attendance, he is confident that the will of the delegates was met and the election is valid. Joe Bernal spoke up asking for a new vote and wanted to know why our practices and procedure are flawed. Ray reiterated that they believe the election is valid as the both numbers yielded the same result. In using the ballots later invalidated, the vote was 36-31 in favor of the incumbent, Jamie Bloom. After removing the torn and white ballots, the vote was 30-29 still in favor of the incumbent. Judi Lombardi raised the question that although on the surface, the appearance could be that it was the same however, believes that we cannot be sure if some votes were valid that were tossed and others were not valid as we don't know who chose not to vote so, there are no checks & balances. She believes as representatives of the 90 teams and 8,000+ athletes, we have a responsibility to maintain the integrity of the election and the delegates who elected us as in the past when ballots were given directly to those who had a mark on their nametag. Ray responded by saying that we are in the process of changing the election process to better serve the growth of the LSC.
2. **Secretary's Report, Judi Lombardi:** Minutes of the March 26, 2013 meeting reviewed. Rick Osterberg raised 4 typographical errors. Motion to approve Secretary's report with typographical corrections made by Jamie Bloom and seconded by Laura Matuszak. *Motion Passes with typographical errors 14-0. (Two Board Members arrived late)*
3. **Treasurer's Report, Joe Frazier:** All treasury reports as of 6/11/2013 are on file at the New England Swimming Office and available upon request. Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Laura Matuszak, seconded by Priscilla Davis. *Motion Passes 14-0.*
4. **Appointments to the Board, Ray Grant:**

Before appointments, Ray took a moment to thank Tim Thompson who stepped in as the Senior Coach Representative when Greg Gillette resigned and also for attending the Eastern Zone Meeting in Fort Lauderdale that was in conflict with our HOD meeting.

Ray proceeded to appoint Paul Memont (SOLO) as the new Officials Chair. He comes with experience as a starter at Olympic Trials and also worked at the Olympics. Motion to approve appointment made by Chris Sheppard and seconded by Priscilla Davis. *Appointment accepted 14-0.*

In addition, Ray appointed to a one year term the following at-large members: Bob Menck (UN), Chuck Batchelor (ABF), Rick Osterberg (UN), Carl Cederquist (CRIM), and Tim Murphy (MBM) Motion to accept

appointments made by Priscilla Davis, seconded by Chris Sheppard. *Motion passes 13-0-1 (Rick Osterberg abstained)*

Regarding the Technical Committee, the HOD elected a new chair, Laura Matuszak in May. Ray appointed committee members consisting of Jamie Bloom (WYST), Joe Bernal (BGSC), Paul Memont (SOLO) and Dan Warner (NSSC). He reported that they would add two athlete reps to the committee after their elections.

Lastly, he announced that there would be two more appointments made at the July BOD meeting for the Inclusion Committee and a Safe Sport Coordinator.

5. Annual Meeting Reports:

- A. **Coaches:** Chris Sheppard, Senior Coach Representative, announced that Christie Batchelor is the new Junior Coach Representative, elected at the HOD meeting in May.
- B. **Age Group Committee:** Jamie Bloom reported that they have had numerous meetings and are working hard on the calendar now.
- C. **Senior Committee:** Joe Bernal reported that they are working on a plan to follow a format moving up to the Olympics like the Grand Prix series. They are talking with Russia and other countries to form a series for our seniors.
- D. **Meet Managers:** Carol Healy reported that they had a detailed and informative training and are looking into running a new one in September that is more basic and simplified.

6. Calendar Committee: Matt Craven was absent so, Ray Grant reported that they are in the process of finalizing details on the SCY calendar. He reiterated that New England Swimming follows a process which the dates are set off the National Calendar first and then flows down from there to the NE Senior Meet in December and the Elite meet in February and then Age Groups and Regionals. He informed the Board that the Age Group Committee is requesting to set the SCY Regionals Meet the same weekend as the Senior Elite Meet in February. General Chair, Ray Grant, is requiring a vote by the board before any calendar is to be published. *Motion to publish the calendar made by Jamie Bloom, seconded by Joe Frazier.* Jamie reports that the weekend of February 14-16 has been the Regionals weekend since 2009. This weekend allows the kids a chance to prepare for Age Groups ahead. Ray reminded everyone that as chair of MIAA Swimming, it also often conflicts with MIAA sectional meets or even other state sectional meets since our LSC covers 4 states and none of the High School sectionals occur on the same weekend. Olivia Jameson asked if the Senior Elite Meet has to be that weekend. Ray reiterated that the calendar is set from the top down. Bob Menck reminded everyone that from an Official's point of view, that it is a rather large amount of obligations to cover if high school meets for MA and NH are scheduled along with Regionals and Elites. It makes us less effective to cover them properly. Carl Cederquist asked if we had the facilities set yet. Ray reported that Bids have not gone out yet because we need the calendar set first. Chris Sheppard asked if there is reason to believe that we have all the facilities available. Ray also stated that a lot of smaller teams don't have the staff to go to two meets on the same weekend in two different locations. Dan Warner asked if there was a reason we were even considering piggy-backing two meets on the same weekend and asked what is the other option available to schedule Regionals. Joe Bernal said that weekend is important to be able to train LCM ahead and see where our swimmers are at. Jamie said that based on history and allowing a two-week span between 12 & unders and Regionals is why the date is important to their committee. Carl Cederquist said that smaller teams are going to have to plan accordingly and staff and that they shouldn't drive the calendar. Mary Ellen Tynan said that in the past it has been her experience that it is very stressful on smaller teams trying to work it out. Dan Warner said that what should drive the calendar is what best suits the majority of the swimmers in the LSC. Mary Riddell asked if the weekend is protected. Ray reported that it is. *Motion made in favor of running both meets on that same weekend was made by Ray Grant, seconded by Chris Sheppard. Motion failed 1-14 with 2 abstentions.* Jamie immediately reported that the committee's second choice is to have Regionals on February 7-9th. *Motion made to approve amended Calendar made by Ray Grant, seconded by Joe Bernal. Motion passes.* Calendar is set to have the Senior Elites on February 14-16, 12 & unders on February 27-March 2 and 13-19 Age Group on March 6-9. Ray reports that SCY bids are due 30 days from tomorrow.

7. Eastern Zone Meeting: Tim Thompson reported that the conference went very well. The Board of Review was a huge discussion as to moving it to a zone level. USA Swimming is trying to kick back some cases to

the local areas. There will be a proposal at the September convention as to money and staffing. Also, the HOF maybe moving possibly to Santa Clara. Sectionals was discussed to have 3 different meets, 2 SCY and 1 LCM. It was stated at the meeting that the Northern Zone Sectional will most likely not be in Buffalo this year. There was a presentation to move it to Ithaca for the weekend of March 20th. Southern Zones has been moved back to Virginia Tech. Cut- times were discussed. The Northern Zone wanted to set one cut for all zones but the Southern Zone did not want to do that. The Age Group Zone Meet is set for March 27th and they looked to Tim to get NES back at the meet. A few other topics were discussed such as, bylaws, officers were voted in and the Diversity Swim Summit in Boston was mentioned. The Convention is scheduled to be in Fort Lauderdale in September.

8. **Long Course Zone Team:** LCM Zone Meet is scheduled in Richmond for the weekend of August 7-10th. Swimmers need to make 3 cuts to attend the meet. Cuts need to be obtained by July 21st. the 11 and over swimmers and families are in one hotel and the 10 & unders are in a different hotel. We couldn't get enough rooms at one hotel.
9. **Athlete's Report, Olivia Jameson:** Olivia announced that they had 12 applications for the two Junior Athlete Representatives, 11 girls and 1 boy. They decided on Tori Weinstock for her experience and open lines of communications with the team representatives. Secondly, they decided on Allison Li from Evolution Swimming. Her application was well written and coming from a small team, she will add a new perspective to New England Swimming. Olivia made a motion to accept the new Junior Athlete Representatives. Mary Riddell seconded it. *Motion passes 14-0.*
10. **Inclusion Committee: Nadine Johnson-Jesioneck:** Nadine reported that they are losing their athlete rep and the committee has now outlined criteria for Student Athlete Rep selection. The National Black Heritage Championship Meet and college tour was a huge success and the New England All Stars took 3rd place with 41 swimmers. Nadine also provided the BOD with an outline of the 2013 Eastern Zone Diversity Swim Summit being held in Boston on June 20-23, 2013 at MIT and Northeastern University. NU is having difficulty with their pool pump so they may have a problem. Chris Sheppard offered to see if he could help if NU can't resolve their problem. The Summit will have 3 tracts each with a theme: Athletes-Service & Social Responsibility, Coaches-Building Strong Foundations & Diversity Chairs-Seize the Moment. They are currently looking for a female coach to sit on the round table panel for the coaches. Christie Batchelor offered to see if Alex Frazier was available to possible sit on the panel.
11. **Office Report, Carol Healy:** Carol passed out a color-coded administrative calendar with dates that the Board needs to be aware of. In addition, as Webmaster, she wanted the BOD to be aware that she try to get things posted as soon as possible and that whenever she receives items, they are posted within 12 hours of receiving them.
12. **By-Law Revisions:** Ray Grant informed the BOD that the LSC has had an overall growth of 25+% in the LSC and therefore, we need to evaluate our By-Laws to ensure that they are current for our needs. Ray and Rick Osterberg will be reviewing 1-2 sections of the By-Laws using best practices via USA Swimming and discussing them at every BOD meeting all year long with the goal to present the updated By-Laws to the House of Delegates in May, 2014. In additions, the finance committee will be looking at the way we handle our finances. At this point, there will be no fundraising under the name of New England Swimming unless approved by this board and the financial committee. We are working on forms and procedures because of our fiduciary responsibility. Christie Batchelor asked if the fundraising includes selling ads in programs for championships. Ray responded that selling ads is for the host team and acceptable to do. Christie also asked if we have a lawyer reviewing our by-laws. Ray said that we do not because our by-laws need to be approved by USA Swimming, who reviews the entire document.
13. **Other Business:**
 - a. Carol Healy: On September 29th, Jason Lezak will be the guest speaker at the top 6 banquet. Also she is investigating holding a symposium for Registrar and Meet Manager.
 - b. Mariella Allard: Reminded everyone that the Senior Meet is the towels meet for distance.

- c. Nadine Johnson-Jesioneck: Let everyone know that they are looking for volunteers at the Boston Center for Family. They need a lifeguard and swimmers to teach lessons.
- d. Laura Matuszak: Wanted to make sure that Carol was listed as a non-voting member of the Technical Committee, as well as the Sanction Chair.
- e. Ray Grant: Thanks to Paul and Ken who have the July Senior Meet as an Official National Qualifying Meet.

15. Next Meeting: meet is July 9, 2013

Motion to adjourn made by Priscilla Davis, seconded by Mariella Allard. Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm.

Respectfully, submitted,
Judi Lombardi, Secretary
New England Swimming

*Minutes approved with typographical errors on July 9, 2013