This year I attended the USAS Convention in Dallas, Tx as the Montana Swimming Coaches Representative. I attended many meetings and workshops throughout my trip here are a few things that really stood out to me.

The House of Delegates passed a few key items this year. 1. They lowered the number of people that will serve on the USA Board. This was done in the hopes that a smaller group would be able to be a bit more proactive rather than reactive. This change was heavily endorsed and encouraged by almost all of the current 22 Board Members. I am excited to see the changes that might occur with this reorganizing. 2. USA Swimming passed two different kinds of memberships. The first was a Junior Coach position. This is meant to help out smaller teams that depend on employing under 18 assistant coaches to help run the team. In this membership the Junior Coach must not be left completely alone on deck or in a dryland situation without supervision of a full membership coach. The second is a flex membership for athletes. This membership will be a smaller cost to the athlete but will limit how many meets they will be able to compete in. The idea behind it from my understanding is to fold more summer league swimmers into the USA Swimming world. I don’t see this having a huge effect on Montana Swimming as our Federation program in Montana has strict rules against their swimmers swimming for USA swimming programs.

One of the workshops that I found very interesting was put on by Team Unify and deck pass. The meeting was to announce that Team Unify and Deck Pass will be merging within the next couple weeks. All our registered swimmers on our team sites will be able to access their deck pass information through our Team Unify sites and app. This is a pretty great move to merge the two biggest technology players in swimming. They are hoping that by connecting the two they will become synonymous with one another thus making USA swimming more unified. The other great thing that Team Unify will be adding soon is a news feed option. This will be a closed forum ( only your members will be able to see or get notifications) that will work similar to facebook or instagram. The coaches and super users of your team will be able to post things to the feed and inform your team of happenings as it is happening. There is also a way to connect it to facebook for all of you that may have a closed facebook page you are using now for your team. This way when you post on your news feed on your team unify website it will also show up on facebook, instagram, and twitter. It was great to see USA Swimming and Team Unify staying on top of the technology that is available to all our swimmers and parents.

Although, I went to many more workshops and meetings, those were the things that stuck out the most. I also attended the Foundations in Swimming Lunch. There were many Past Olympians there which was very exciting. I got to watch one of Junior Athlete Reps Claire Becker ask Anthony Ervin if his tattoos hurt we he got them. Needless to say that was a funny and entertaining moment.