

WESTERN ZONE MINUTES  
Hyatt Regency in Garden Grove, CA  
September 12-13, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Robert Broyles, Senior Zone Director. All Western Zone LSCs were represented. Elected and appointed officers present: Robert Broyles, Senior Zone Director; Ben Britten, Junior Zone Director; Jon Hayashida, Swimming Championship Coordinator; Marilyn Loitz, Secretary/Treasurer; Eugene Mielke, Disability Swimming Coordinator.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Western Zone members who have passed this year or who are currently very ill.

**M/S/P** Motion to approve the minutes from September 13-14, 2012 as presented.

Introductions: USA-S President Bruce Stratton; USA-S Executive Director Chuck Wielgus; USA-S Past President Ron Van Pool; USA-S Vice Presidents Mary Jo Swalley (Administration), Jeff Gudman (Program Development) and Dave Berkoff (Technical) and Bill Krumm, Sport Development Consultant were introduced during the meeting.

Bruce Stratton spoke to us about two pieces of legislation. He urged us to approve the resolution increasing dues \$2 each year for a period of ten years beginning with the 2015 membership year. He stressed the importance of passing the safe sport legislation (R-12), dealing with prohibition of romantic relationships between coaches and adult athletes, which would bring us into compliance with minimum standards as mandated by the USOC. If not passed we could lose high performance funding from the USOC and certification as the NGB of USA Swimming. He also explained why USA-S owns its own insurance company (USSIC), why it is located in Barbados and how it has been beneficial to USA-S. Our equity in the company has grown from \$1 million to over \$30 million in twenty-five years. The company has no paid employees except for outside consultants or attorneys as needed and meetings are held outside the US because of Barbados laws. A review is currently being done to ensure that we are still on the right track.

Chuck Wielgus thanked Robert for the extraordinary job he has done representing WZ on the USA-S Board of Directors. He spoke about his roles as CEO. In developing a business and financial plan for USA-S, he is always thinking long term, not just about a year or quad, but about decades and generations. Flexibility is also a must as many "curve balls" occur. Fiduciary responsibility requires "knowing where the money is." We must tell our story—all the positive aspects of our sport. He recently started a blog and he and Bruce hosted a Town Hall forum during convention.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

**Junior Zone Director, Ben Britten.** Western Zone is currently the largest with 92,000 athletes and we have had an awesome year with our meets striving to get faster and get bigger. Our Sectionals are some of the fastest in the country and our Senior Championship Meet is the largest having grown to over 1,000 swimmers this year as compared to the next largest Senior Championship Meet which had only 300 swimmers. Looking ahead, Kent Yoshiwara will be presenting information on diversity/camp and a committee headed by Jeri Marshburn will be working on improved disability inclusion for our championship meets. Robert Broyles was thanked for all of his positive support and mentoring this past year. It has been a great year and whoever is elected has large shoes to fill.

**Swimming Championship Coordinator, Jon Hayashida.** Jon thanked expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the Swimming Championship Coordinator.

**Secretary/Treasurer, Marilyn Loitz.** A written report was distributed and reviewed. (Attachment 1) **M/S/P** Motion to approve the 2013 Treasurer's Report.

**Officials Coordinator, Don Hougardy.** A written report was submitted. (Attachment 2) Robert Broyles reported that Don was extremely satisfied with the performance of our officials at our championship meets this year with special mention of the meet referees, Mary Jo Swalley, Senior Meet, and Doug Wertz, Age Group Meet. For 2014, the referees will be Mary Jo Swalley, Senior Meet, and Julie Carpenter, Age Group Meet.

**Disability Coordinator, Gene Mielke.** Disability Swimming is alive and well in the Western Zone. At the Disability World Cup, we were represented with by one official, four coaches and eleven of 24 USA-S athletes. Swimmers with disabilities also swam in LSC championships, Sectional and Zone meets this year. Coaches have become more willing to take on swimmers with disabilities.

**Athletes' Representative, Steve Sholdra.** Western Zone athletes have been very involved at convention this year with an effort being made to help athletes develop into well-rounded individuals with salesmanship and presentation skills. At a breakout session by zones, they participated in a "Shark Tank" activity. Each zone developed a business plan for the best athlete newsletter possible including how to distribute it and give a 25 minute presentation. The Western Zone Athlete Newsletter was sent out two weeks ago, but due to some e-mail issues has been resent. Issues two and three are already

done and will be sent in the coming weeks. To athletes concerned about missing classes--most schools have Community Outreach Programs. Let your school know why you are attending convention, and how you are giving back to your sport and community through your local swimming community

## REPORT OF CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

**2013 Age Group (14/U) Championship Meet, Denna Culpepper.** This was the first year with no 15-18 age group, The meet went very well with the new format and Capital Aquatics recorded the largest profit ever. Colorado Swimming was the winning meet team. Doug Wertz was meet referee, Niffey Carmody was administrative referee and Susan Huckeby was Chief Judge/Team Lead. Additional details are in a written report. (Attachment 3)

**2014 Age Group Meet** will be held August 6--9 in Federal Way, Washington. Additional information will be out soon.

**2013 Senior Championship Meet, Ben Britten.** Over 1,020 athletes representing 90 teams participated with the Jeffco Hurricanes from Colorado taking first place. There were 5379 individual entries/splashes and 429 relays and records were broken in 30 out of 34 events. Approximately 40-45 officials helped with the meet and a special thank you goes to Mary Jo Swalley for her idea of using three databases and to Jim and Renee Patterson. Mary Flatman and John Lorimer for all their computer help. One database was used at each pool for prelims and the third was used to compile results. Four LSCs took advantage of the All-star option—Montana, Pacific Northwest, Inland Empire and Snake River.

**2014 Senior Meet.** Mary Jo Swalley has agreed to be the meet referee. A task force will soon meet to decide the time standards and determine any other changes needed going forward with the meet.

## PRESENTATION OF 2015 AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIP MEET BIDS

Hawaii Swimming at the Kihei Aquatic Center in Maui, HI (As the only bidder, HI was awarded the meet)

Hawaii will be given the first right of refusal for the 2015 Senior Meet as per the Western Zone Policies and Procedures.

## REPORTS OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES MEMBERS

**Registration, Jim Patterson/Colleen Buchanan.** As of September 1, 2014, there is a substantial coach certification change. First aid has been combined into safety training and the Red Cross has new courses. You can still do lifeguard certification, but there is a log-on training to go through to tie it in; now on the Red Cross website and are no longer on the USA-S website. There is a power point presentation on the USA-S website that will give all the different options you have under the new format.

**Senior Development, Rick Shipherd.** The why of R-9, dealing with changes to the Sectional Meets, was reviewed. The Committee defines the intent of these meets to be a stepping stone to national meets with Junior Nationals being primary. This legislation, effective January 1, 2015, provides a base level of uniformity and adoption is urged. Zone Senior Meets have now been moved from the Age Group Committee to the Senior Development Committee.

**Times and Recognition Scholastic All-American Subcommittee, Marvin Lanphere/Joyce Lanphere.** This year entries were totally automated, and the response improved. There were 1,353 successful applicants of which 729 were women and 624 men, There were 181 three timers, and generically there were 77% who had 4.0s. Southern California and Pacific tied for third place in the LSC ranking with North Carolina and Middle Atlantic placing first and second respectively. Western Zone placed third in the zone ranking barely being beaten by second place Eastern Zone.

**Diversity and Inclusion, Kent Yoshiwara.** Support was asked for legislative item 304.3 (Code of Conduct) at the House of Delegates. A written report was submitted. Attachment 4

**Disability Swimming, Linda Conger.** A disability clinic for coaches will be held in Colorado Springs the next year.

**Age Group Development, Jade Sobek/Sheri Stoddard.** Work continues on the IMX Games with six scheduled this coming year. One will be held in Mesa, AZ in November and participation is urged though you may attend any of them. with only one in our zone. Work has been done on updating the athlete progression chart for coaching which is on the USA-S website. The revised chart will be posted soon.

**Officials and Open Water Swimming, Sandy Drake.** A goal this year has been getting officials to understand just what the new required position of Administrative Official is all about. Western Zone is the only one that doesn't have a Zone Open Water Championship each year. Open Water Development is offering all winners at a 5K meet within a zone an automatic qualification invitation to go to nationals.

**Governance, Dave Coddington.** Three pieces of legislation were reviewed: 1) R-17 which would change only the Saturday House of Delegates from annual to biennial; 2) A resolution changing the convention days to Sunday through Wednesday to

give more elite/collegiate coaches a chance to participate; 3) R-18 which bases LSC representation at the House of Delegates on the number of athletes registered in an LSC.

## ELECTIONS -- NOMINATIONS

WZ Junior Zone Director (non-athlete, coach)  
WZ Swimming Championship Coordinator  
WZ Secretary/Treasurer

Dave Coddington, John Lorimer, Linda Seckinger  
Heather Thomas, Linda Eaton, Denna Culpepper  
Debbie Baldwin, Susan Huckleby, Lanni Jacobson

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**M/S/P** To first update the Western Zone Bylaws and the Western Zone Policies and Procedures to reflect the removal of the 15-18 age group from our Age Group Championship and other proposals which were passed in 2012 and 2013. Secondly, a task force will be appointed to go through these documents, in particular to look at all of the specific requirements for our championship meet, and bring proposed updates to our 2014 convention meetings for approval.

## NEW BUSINESS

**M/S/P** Motion to accept the 2014 Age Group Time Standards as presented.

**M/S/P** Motion that the Western Zone Directors request funding from USA-S Board of Directors for budgeting for six sectional meets in the Western Zone beginning in 2015.

**M/S/P** Officials Mentoring and Assistance

1. The Western Zone Officials Chair, with the advice of the various LSCs, of the Western Zone, the assigned Meet Referees of the respective meets and the Western Zone Directors, would identify two officials from each LSC for each of the two zone meets, and invite those individuals to officiate at the meet for which they were identified. Ideally, one would be a mentor and one would be an "up and comer." These invited officials would be in addition to the Meet Referee, Admin Referee and Team Lead.
2. An Officials Assistance Fund will be created, the purpose of which is to provide lodging expense assistance for the invited officials. The Meet Referee, Admin Referee and Team Lead are not covered by this fund as their expenses are covered through other funding. This Officials Assistance Fund will be funded as follows:
  - a. In 2014 and 2015, the individual event entry fee of both meets would be raised by \$1 (from \$7 to \$8) and the total additional fees raised from this \$1 increase will be matched by an equal amount from the Western Zone monetary reserves.
  - b. Beginning in 2016, the individual event entry fee of both meets would be raised by an additional \$1 (from \$8 to \$9) and no additional funds will be taken from the Western Zone monetary reserves.
3. The Officials Assistance Fund will be administered by the Western Zone Officials Chair subject to policies and procedures of the Western Zone. Distribution of any funds from the Officials Assistance Fund will be made by the Western Zone Treasurer with the approval of the Western Zone Directors.
4. Funds in the Officials Assistance Fund not used in any one year would carry forward and made strictly available to the officials assistance program in future years.

**M/S/P as Amended** Motion to establish an Official's Reimbursement Fund using a portion of the Western Zone's share of the entry fees from the Senior and the Age Group Championship meets. Fifty (\$.50) of each individual splash fee and \$1.00 of each relay splash fee will be disbursed to those officials who are not being reimbursed from another source. Funds generated from the Senior Zone meet will be disbursed to the officials who worked the Senior Zone meet and the funds generated from the Age Group Zone meet will be disbursed to the officials who worked the Age Group Zone meet. An application will be designed for officials to submit to the Western Zone Treasurer for reimbursement with verification by the Western Zone Officials Chair as to the number of sessions worked. **M/S/P** Motion to amend that an official must have worked 80% of the sessions.

**M/S/P** Motion to add to Bylaws Article 103 Officers, Directors, Board..... 103.1.2.4 Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator and to the Policies and Procedures manual under Section I. Officers, Directors, and Board; 2.0 Duties and Responsibilities; 2.10 Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

2.10.1 Shall be the Western Zone nominee to the National Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

2.10.2 Shall maintain communication with and distribute information to the LSC Diversity and Inclusion Chairs within the Western Zone.

2.10.3 Shall contribute articles to the Western Zone Newsletter.

2.10.4 Shall coordinate the Western Zone Diversity Camp.

2.10.5 Shall chair the Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

**M/S/P** Motion that a ten cent (0.10) per swimmer surcharge be charged for all swimmers registered, excluding Outreach

swimmers, in each LSC within the Western Zone between September 1, 2013 and March 1, 2014. The ten cent surcharge is payable by each LSC to the Western Zone by April 1, 2014. The funds generated will be used by the Western Zone Diversity and Inclusion Committee to fund the Western Zone Diversity Camp and for any other Western Zone diversity activities so identified by the committee. The committee will submit a financial report to the Western Zone Directors by August 1 each year for the previous year's activities.

**M/S/P** Motion to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. The meeting was called back to order on September 13, 2013 at 3:40 p.m.

**M/S/P** Motion to approve the 2014 proposed budget.

**M/S/Tabled** A proposal from the Age Group Meet Rotation task force for a five year rotation schedule which would begin in 2017 with three identified sites; Roseville Aquatic Center, Kihei Aquatic Center and Mesa University in CO.

Marci Callen, General Chair of Niagara Swimming introduced Marcus Titus, a deaf swimmer who started age group swimming at 14, competed at U of AZ and swam in the 2012 Olympic Trials where his efforts persuaded USA-S to allow hand signals to be used. They are actively trying to grow the deaf swimming community and to find more deaf swimmers in the LSCs. January 14-18, 2013, the Deaf International Short Course Swimming Championship will be held at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY. Eastern Zone has endorsed the deaf community, has a link to the deaf community on their website and asks that Western Zone do the same.

**Senior Zone Director, Robert Broyles.** Robert expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Western Zone for all of their support over the last four years with special thanks to Larry Johnson, Vicki Marsh, Marilyn Loitz, John Kinney, Brandon Drawz and Ben Britten. It has been a great opportunity with lots of challenges. He is proud of what the zone has accomplished during his tenure; moving forward to do the best thing for our athletes, breaking some old habits and holding two superior championship meets in 2013. He admonished the zone to keep going, to not stop and to make the next four years just as great as the last four.

Brandon Drawz gave kudos to Robert on being an extraordinary leader at the USA-S board level and noted that he will be sorely missed.

Awards for commitment and dedication were presented to Robert Broyles, four years as a Zone Director; Jon Hayashida, four years as Championship Meet Coordinator and Marilyn Loitz, 19 years as Secretary/Treasurer. Marilyn thanked every one present and those not there for all the help and support they have given her over the years.

Sandy Drake talked about offering a 1K and a 5K open water swim at the age group meet in 2015 in Kihei which would include swimmers with disabilities. She and Malcolm Cooper also talked about safety issues related to open water swimming.

Kent Yoshiwara reviewed what happens at a diversity camp and asked that those interested in serving on the Zone Diversity Committee contact him. The first Western Zone Diversity Select Camp and Summit will be June 26-29, 2014 at California State University East Bay, Hayward, CA. Flyers have been distributed and it will be posted on the website.

Matt Farrell, Chief Marketing Officer at headquarters, talked about the "Swim Today" campaign which is bringing groups of people together, who are used to competing with each other on a daily basis, in a collaborative effort to grow the sport of swimming. Direction of the campaign is to convert "Learn to Swim" kids into competitive swimming. An ad agency has been hired and will launch the campaign in full with all partners next spring. At this time, Matt would welcome feedback on really effective bridge programs that are currently being used in clubs and LSCs. Starting this fall there will be a lot of consumer research results being made available.

New Mexico hopes to start an all-star meet in March or April. Contact New Mexico Swimming for information.

## ELECTIONS

Dave Coddington was elected as Junior Western Zone Director  
Denna Culpepper was elected as the Western Zone Swimming Championship Coordinator  
Debbie Baldwin was elected as the Western Zone Secretary/Treasurer

**M/S/P** Motion to destroy the ballots.

**M/S/P** Motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Loitz, Secretary/Treasurer  
WZMin—9/12-13/2013

Western Zone Officials Coordinator's Report  
Garden Grove, CA

## **ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS**

As mentioned last year, 2013 saw some significant format changes in the Western Zone championship meets. To begin with, the Age Group meet was limited to swimmers age 14 and under. Additionally, the Senior meet (with over 1,000 swimmers) experimented by contesting preliminaries each day in two pools (separated by approximately 4 miles) and finals each evening held in one pool. As a result of the efforts of the many volunteers with each host club, our championship meets had excitement, good competition and an enjoyable, positive atmosphere for our swimmers.

Competitive swimming, however, is a labor intensive activity and as we look forward it is becoming increasing obvious new approaches to attract officials need to be explored.

### **2013 Age Group Championships –**

Dates: August 7 – 10, 2013  
Host: California Capital Aquatics  
Meet Director: Denna Culpepper  
Meet Referee: Doug Wertz

Doug Wertz, Niffey Carmody (Administrative Referee) and Susan Huckeby (Team Lead Chief Judge), as the assigned team, all deserve recognition for their job well done.

### **2012 Senior Championships –**

Dates: July 31 - August 4, 2013  
Host: Clovis Swim Club  
Meet Director: Ben Britten  
Meet Referee: Mary Jo Swalley

I would like to give special recognition to Jim Patterson for his considerable pre-meet software formatting efforts, John Lorimer for his invaluable computer connectivity skills, Renee Patterson who served as the Administrative Referee and Sue Lorimer who served as my assistant Lead Chief Judge. With them, and the Mentorship provided by Mary Jo, this meet would not have been the success that it was.

## **OTHER MEETS AND CONFERENCES**

The Meet Referee's for this Summers SCS Sectional Meets were: For the Gold Section – Dick Pierson and for the Blue Section – Linda Eaton. I was the Meet Referee for the Blue Section's Spring SCS Sectional Meet and Debbie Baldwin was the Meet Referee for the Gold Section's Winter SCS Sectional Meet.

Finally, the Biennial national Officials Chairs conference was held in Orlando this year. Several topics were discussed including role the Administrative Official and minimum standards for Officials; and the Western Zone continued its tradition of gathering for a no-host group dinner.

I have enjoyed serving as you Officials Coordinator and look forward to seeing you on deck at a swim meet in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Hougardy

ATTACHMENT 3

**2013 Age Group Western Zone Championships  
August 7-10<sup>th</sup> - Meet Report  
USA Swimming Convention  
Western Zone Meeting**



On behalf of California Capital Aquatics, it was a pleasure serving as your host team for the Age Group Western Zone Meet in Roseville, California. Here are some specifics and numbers regarding the first ever 14 and under format:

**Athlete total – 562**

- 3161 individual splashes and 433 relays
- 21 total records; 3 individual, 10 relays, 8 new
- 16 out of 17 LSC’s sent a Team or Swimmers
- Colorado sent the largest team with 86 swimmers
- Arizona had 5 swimmers participate

**Coaches/Officials**

- 56 coaches representing 15 LSC’s
- 55 officials /22 from Sierra Nevada Swimming – Thank you Bill Rose!

**Box lunches**

- 12 LSC’s participated in the Box Lunch option – 1900+ box lunches were served over the 4 day meet

**Financial Status**

- Income/Revenues       \$94,857.51
- Expenses                 \$69,104.58
- Net Profit                 \$25,753
  - Housing Commission – Placer Valley Tourism: 2081 rooms nights at \$5 per night resulting in \$10,405 in meet support
  - D3 Athletic apparel sold \$19,000 in apparel, resulting in \$2152 in meet support
  - Kohl’s Department Store - \$1000 in meet support
  - Other vendors on deck - \$1770.12 in meet support
  - Aprox economic impact for City of Roseville – 1.4 million

**Spectators** - estimated 800+ spectators each day for trials/finals

**Volunteers** – over 250 volunteers helped at the meet

**Special Thank You** to Robert Broyles, Ben Britten, Doug Wertz, Susan Huckleby, Rebecca Landre, Niffey Carmody, Linda Eaton and Mark Brown.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Denna Culpepper  
California Capital Aquatics  
Director of Operations*

