



Big Sky, Big Dreams, Big Success

Sept 28, 2021

Montana Swimming House of Delegates,

This past year has difficult, challenging, rewarding, busy, disconcerting (Pick and adjective. Lots of them would be appropriate.) I am, however, proud of what we were able to accomplish given all the restrictions and uncertainties with which we were faced. Montana Swimming and those organizations that comprise it seemed to find ways to adapt and overcome almost every obstacle. Almost everyone found ways to keep swimmers swimming! When virus-related mitigations precluded the ability of parents and others to watch their swimmers compete, we found ways to webcast the meets and worked together to the benefit of all. When COVID restrictions precluded getting all qualified swimmers to the same place for the Short Course State meet, we found facilities and people willing to plan, host and operate two meets and combine results. When upper level meets in Federal Way, WA were cancelled for the second straight year, we found a way to host a multi-state, “Regional Replacement” meet with a prelim/finals format to provide upper-level swimmers with a chance to excel in March. Unfortunately, we did not manage to provide a championship meet for our more novice swimmers.

As we move into the new competition year, I see four significant areas on which MTSI needs to focus:

- Across the state, we need to build and advance the availability and knowledge of the volunteers that make our events work. We need new and advancing officials, meet managers, etc. This will require a concerted effort at the team level and may require more cooperation between teams and enticing experienced folks from a different team help train or operate local volunteers. This includes the recruitment and installation of good folks in the LSC offices and positions.
- We need to make the time to prepare comprehensive updates to our MTSI governance and operating guidance documents (e.g., our Bylaws and our Policies/Procedures (P/Ps) and Rules/Regulations (R/Rs)). In the last several years, USA Swimming has required a number of substantive changes to our Bylaws. In my opinion, many of those are unnecessary and overly proscriptive. However, additional mandates from USAS will be forthcoming. We’ll need to keep up on these. We also need to complete the effort to update and revise our P/Ps and R/Rs to include all passed proposal language as well as make the documents consistent internally and between each. Our Admin Vice Chair, Jay Friend, has a good start on this. We need to find the time and effort to assist Jay and complete the effort.
- We need to closely look at our programs, rules and policies with respect to their fiscal impacts and understand our operating budget. We have passed a number of proposals over the past five or so years with significant budget implications. Because of the pandemic and other anomalies, many of the fiscal impacts from those changes have either not been fully implemented or realized or have had their impacts obscured by our inability to operate other planned programs. Additionally, the National Governing Body has and will continue to roll out requirements that will require additional efforts and expenditures. For example, this year, USA Swimming began requiring all LSC to complete third-party financial audits or operations. We need a clear understanding of planned/programmed revenues and expenditures. I suspect that a significant reckoning will be forthcoming within the LSC.
- In a number of locations around the state, localities or groups endeavor to plan and develop new aquatic facilities. For a long time, there has been a dearth of pools and pool space around the state. As the facilities in the state age, there is the threat that additional maintenance costs will result in the shuttering of

the few facilities we do have. I believe we need a concerted effort at the LSC level to evaluate, promote and provide assistance to local groups desiring to develop new aquatic facilities.

Thanks to everyone for enduring and overcoming the challenges of the past year. I look forward to another rewarding and fruitful year.

Respectfully Submitted,

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