

North Texas Swimming Inc.

House of Delegates Meeting Minutes

Date: April 19, 2003

Place: Dallas Marriott Quorum

1. Roll Call

David Beans, General Chairman
Jack Dowling, Administrative Vice Chairman
Jill Hudgens, Secretary
Denise Robinson, Treasurer
Karen Rourke, Registration and Membership Chairman
John Rieff, Records/Top 16/National Times Chairman/Prog. Development Chairman
Bill Nixon, Officials and Sanctions Chairman
Bob Lang, Equipment Chairman

Members at Large

Nancy French

ATAC – Chris MacCurdy

COPS – Eric Wiley

DEA – Adele Wherry, James Jester, Kenley Woods

FA – Jack Kosharek

LAC – Tess Brown, Martha Rudkin

MARS – Jon Ivonon

2. Minutes

There was one correction to the previous meeting's minutes. Chris MacCurdy (ATAC) states that he was at the last meeting. A **motion** was made that the minutes be accepted as corrected. The motion was seconded and **passed**.

3. Reports of Officers

A. General Chairman - David Beans called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

B. Secretary - Jill Hudgens reports that GCAT needs to provide a list of alternates for the LSC Voting Representatives.

C. Treasurer - Denise Robinson reports that she has provided the Treasurer's Report and there is nothing that needs discussion. Denise reports that the LSC will be doing Hurricane Harbor again this summer. The date is set for August 24, 2003. She encouraged the coaches to spread the word to their teams. The kids had a great time last year.

D. Admin. Vice-Chairman – Jack Dowling had no report.

E. Senior Vice-Chairman – Mook Roodenbaugh had no report.

F. Age Group Vice-Chairman – Brian Dangelmaier had no report.

G. Coaches' Representative – Patrick Henry had no report.

4. Report of Standing Committees

A. Registration/Membership – As of April 18, 2003, the LSC has 3,422 registered athletes, 397 registered non-athletes, 25 registered clubs, and 2 clubs have become organizations rather than clubs. If a club does not maintain a registered coach or registered athletes, it can no longer be a club. Waco Family Y is one of the clubs; however, they are looking for a coach. If anyone knows of a coach who might be interested, send them to the contact person, Monica Farris, it's on the website. The other club is Grand Prairie, which merged with ASR. We have a new club, Keller Swim Team, swimming out of the new natatorium in Keller.

USA Swimming is going up on the fees.

When clubs have athletes transfer from one team to another, do not enter them at a meet with "no time." Chances are they have swum in a meet. Contact their previous club to get their times or go to the best times database to get their times. We're getting a lot of transfer kids being entered into meets with no times; some are "A" swimmers going into lower level meets.

Seasonal registration applications are available at this meeting. It was voted in this year that seasonal registration would be from April 15 to August 22. Put them on the seasonal registration form, not on the regular form. August 22 is the last day they can be registered. If you register them as seasonal and then want to convert them into regular membership, that cannot be done. They would have to rejoin. At this point, it would be best to wait until September 1 and register them as regular athletes. Seasonal athletes cannot swim regional meets, but can swim national and above.

B. Officials – Bill Nixon had no report.

C. Safety – Tom Osterland had no report.

D. Technical Planning – Matt Rowe had no report.

E. Athletes – David Mendoza had no report.

F. Finance – V Adcock had no report.

G. Program Development – John Rieff had no report on program development. However, he did report on Top 16 as follows. Coaches should have received all of the Top 16 certificates from last season. All the relay information/preview list is out on the web for all the relays from last season. A lot of national age group records and short course records were broken this last season. Congratulations to LAC, Matt Murphy who got a couple of National Age Group records established. If you are a Meet Director and see that a National Age Group record has been set in your meet, please notify John Rieff and the Meet Referee as soon as possible because there is a lot of paperwork that has to be completed. The Meet Referee needs to sign off on that.

NTV – Everything should be in the database for NTV. There is a new software that they claim is better and more reliable. There is training on June 13-14, 2003. All records through short course season should be updated and on the web.

Jack Dowling says that he wants to compliment John Rieff for Nationals as there was only one relay from our LSC that the time was not proven. The only other athlete was actually a foreign athlete registered in North Texas, so we were clean, we didn't have to do any work for proof of times for Nationals.

H. Sanctions – Bill Nixon had no report.

5. Reports of Special Committees

A. Equipment – Bob Lang reports that he has noticed a lot of the teams that have equipment don't have everything they need. The LSC has a lot of equipment to use, it's for the kids. There is no point in trying to

run a meet without equipment. There should not be any time where a meet has to be stopped or can't be started on time because of equipment. Even if you have equipment for your club, the LSC has whatever your team may need.

Insurance - Denise Robinson reports that the LSC has received notification from the insurance carrier that the insurance rates will be lowered. The insurance carrier has lumped all USA swim teams together and is insuring them under USA Swimming. Each LSC will then be paying that; we will be getting a refund. She does not know what the deductible will be. It is difficult to find a carrier that knows the situation that we deal with because the LSC is not typical in any way.

- B. NTV – see above.
- C. Records/Top 16 – see above.
- D. Swim Camps – Jim Henry had no report.

6. **Unfinished Business** – there was no unfinished business.

7. **New Business – Donations.** Denise Robinson reports that there had been a donation issue. Since that time, that issue is no longer a problem because the people requesting the donation raised the money they needed, and a donation was no longer requested. However, as a 501(c)(3) corporation, we are supposed to make donations. She proposes that up to \$250, the Treasurer has the discretion to make donations as the need arises. There is no 10% rule, but we do have to prove that as a non-profit corporation, we are also helping people. The LSC accountant has said that there is no problem as long as we donate something every year. Scholarships would count as a donation.

Scholarships - David Beans reports that there was some interesting comments made at the General Chairs' meeting about the idea of giving scholarships to people (basically males) that will not be swimming in college in hopes of keeping the older boy swimmers in the LSC and swimming because they are working and shooting for that scholarship even though they may not be swimming in college. Several LSCs have the program where they offer two scholarships for swimming and two for not swimming, and that was one of the things that was exciting some people about keeping the older swimmers, especially males, in the sport through their high school years. David would really like to see it come back. Denise Robinson states that those that served with her on that committee were very discouraged by the response; that the LSC would have to find a new committee. The committee will provide all of their paperwork. David requests that the coaches give this topic serious consideration for providing input to him to get the scholarships started again. There is money within the LSC that could be given to swimmers. Coaches would need to be on the committee. Denise reports that because of our non-profit status, we could get in trouble if we don't give any money away.

Bill Nixon made a **motion** that the Executive Committee authorize that \$250 be given out of the LSC to some needy organization or individual so that the LSC fulfills the requirement of being a 501(c)(3) organization. The Executive Committee would convene to decide whether to donate \$250 to an organization if we found it in need. The motion was **seconded** and **passed**.

Membership Fees – Membership fees for USA Swimming are going up next year. Karen is going to explain the details, i.e., breakdown of what goes to National vs. what the LSC keeps. We need to discuss whether we want to add to it, leave it the same, or do something with it.

Seasonal

Currently	LSC charges \$24.50	USA Swimming gets \$12.50	LSC keeps \$12.00
Next Year	LSC charges \$32.00	USA Swimming gets \$20.00*	LSC keeps \$12.00

*USA Swimming is raising their fee to \$20.00. As it stands now, we are keeping \$12.00, so our LSC registration would be raised to \$32.00.

Individual Athletes

Currently	LSC charges \$37.00	USA Swimming gets \$25.00	LSC keeps \$12.00
Next Year	LSC charges \$52.00	USA Swimming gets \$40.00*	LSC keeps \$12.00

*USA Swimming is raising their fee to \$40.00. As it stands now, we are keeping \$12.00, so our LSC registration would be raised to \$52.00.

Individual Non-athlete (officials/coaches)

Currently	LSC charges \$25.00	USA Swimming gets \$25.00	LSC keeps \$0.00
Next Year	LSC charges \$40.00	USA Swimming gets \$40.00*	LSC keeps \$0.00

*USA Swimming is raising their fee to \$40.00. As it stands now, we keep nothing, so our LSC registration would be raised to \$40.00.

Non-Athlete Family

Currently	LSC charges \$45.00	USA Swimming gets \$45.00	LSC keeps \$0.00
Next Year	LSC charges \$75.00	USA Swimming gets \$75.00*	LSC keeps \$0.00

*USA Swimming is raising their fee to \$75.00. As it stands now, we keep nothing, so our LSC registration would be raised to \$75.00.

Lifetime Membership – Remains \$750.00.

A decision needs to be made because the forms for 2004 need to be printed.

USA Swimming has decided that athletes are not paying enough. USA Swimming wants to get their portion of the athlete registration fee up to \$50.00. Right now it is \$40.00 and will increase \$1.00 each year for the next ten years to \$50.00 (in 2014). This will be very confusing for the clubs.

David Beans questions if we leave things as they are, will we be fine? Denise Robinson states that we will be fine because we have a cushion that we're okay with. We have to recognize that we are entering into uncertain times, so we will have fewer registrations anyway, which means fewer splash fees, etc. Denise proposes that we charge an even \$50.00. That's \$10.00 to the LSC, and then increase our fee \$1.00 each year like USA Swimming to a maximum of \$60.00. Chris MacCurdy agrees and recommends making the seasonal registration \$30.00. Denise states that we don't make that much off of seasonal registration anyway. Chris states that we need to really look at it to see how it really would affect our budget and forecast a decrease of maybe 10% in the LSC and see how that affects us. If we can live on that for a year, go from there. With these increases, what kind of decrease would we have to expect? Ten percent decrease is probably reasonable. Also, what kind of capital expenses are we going to need over the next five years? What kind of annual expenses are we going to need as far as equipment replacement or equipment maintenance standpoint? Denise feels like our expenses will increase, but our income will decrease only because our splash fees are going to go down. There will be families in north Texas that will have to decide to not swim any more. USA Swimming saying that it is not getting the money compared to other athletes does not realize how much families are paying. Denise states we should be okay for five years with what we have in reserve. We do not need to make a permanent decision right now. Even with a 10% decrease, we should still be okay. We can't hold to every unforeseen circumstance, such as losing all of our equipment.

David provides a breakdown of what the "new money" is going for:

25% to new club development committee – Pat Hogan was hired as director for this. The clubs will see more things being offered, such as National making an effort to educate at the grass roots level

25% to facilities –helping with feasibility studies about swimming facilities; getting contractors to help build facilities; looking for water, etc.

25% to television promotions –getting USA Swimming more in the eye of the public

25% to "catch-all" – budgetary makeup or a combination of all three of the above

Denise Robinson states that there are other ways in which this LSC can save our teams money, such as the incredible paper trail that costs our teams a lot of money. The LSC can help our teams cut back on expenses, especially the awards.

Bill Nixon made a **motion** to amend § 11.1 of the Policy and Procedures as follows: *[strikethrough is deleted; bold / underline is new addition]*

11.1 REGISTRATION FEES: These fees are in effect as of September 1, 2001

	<u>Set By</u>	USA Swimming	NTS	<u>TOTAL</u>
.1 Club Registration				
A. Year Round Club	\$	70.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 75.00 [09/1996]
B. Seasonal Club	\$	40.00	\$10.00	\$ 50.00 [09/1996]
.2 Athlete Registrations				
A. Year Round Athlete	\$	25.00	\$12.00 \$10.00	\$ 37.00 [01/2001]
B. Seasonal Athlete	\$	12.50	\$12.00 \$10.00	\$ 24.50 [01/2001]
.3 Non-athlete Memberships				
A. USA Swimming Individual	\$	25.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 25.00 09/1996]
B. USA Swimming Family	\$	35.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 35.00 09/1996]
C. USA Swimming Sustaining	\$	100.00	\$ 0.00	\$100.00 09/1996]
D. USA Swimming Life	\$	750.00	\$ 0.00	\$750.00 09/1996]

Chris MacCurdy **seconded** the motion and it **passed**.

Karen Rourke reports that next year athlete memberships will be \$50.00. Seasonal memberships will be \$30.00. Individual non-athlete will be \$40.00. Family non-athlete will be \$75.00.

David Beans reports that club registration did not go up because any new club now has to, within the first year, attend Club Business Management School, which is a \$500.00 fee. USA Swimming is trying to provide 25 free clinics around the country so a club does not have to pay that \$500.00. This LSC can host one for any club within our LSC on a weekend for \$1,250.00, and NTS is suggesting that existing clubs and new clubs may want to do that. This LSC may look into whether we want to host one later on in the year or the first part of next year. David has heard excellent things about this clinic; it is even good for existing clubs because they basically give all the ins-and-outs and pitfalls, etc.

Meet Awards – Jon Ivonen reports that their team ran one of the BB/B/C Champs meets that were split into three different meets. In the meet information provided by the LSC, teams were required to give medals for places 1-3 for all the athletes. Over \$1,000 was spent for awards. Grapevine spent approximately that much. Between the three teams over \$4,000 was probably spent on awards. He spoke with Matt Rowe, Karen Rourke, and Chris MacCurdy, and a number of other people and asked how the teams are supposed to award the meet, and no one really had any idea. Because it is a championship meet, all teams should have the same process. When the LSC is divided into three different meets, and each team has to spend approximately \$1,200 for awards, by the end it's a relatively small meet, it's almost not worth doing it.

Jon Ivonen proposes that the Technical Planning Committee review the awards for all meets to make some sense out of it. Jon's statement was amended to delete Technical Planning and send it to Long Range Planning where it belongs since it is a Policies and Procedures question.

Karen Rourke clarifies that when that meet information was put in that was when we only had one championship meet, and there weren't 12&U. Then, you only had two age groups that you were awarding for, and it was not a significant amount of money. When Technical Planning changed the meets, no one even thought about the meet awards. Jon states that we have to award medals to B kids, BB kids, and C kids, and first, second and third relay teams. We had to give medals to 15&O which were never delineated, they were always a category by itself. Now we have to award B, BB and C in 15&O. Someone clarifies that 15&O are BB swimmers and that is all that has to be awarded. However, Jon states that that was not addressed. Someone states that it is addressed in the

Policies and Procedures. David Beans says that it will be looked at and everything will be in place for the October meeting.

Jack Dowling asked Karen Rourke to go back and revise the Policies and Procedures, which will have to be approved by the House, to eliminate all references to the hard copies for meet information and results. We are one of the one of the few LSCs that requires hard copies. Back in the fall Maggie Shook said that it cost them \$300.00 just to mail out meet results. There are better ways to stay in touch. Meet information can be retrieved from the web immediately, whereas you have to wait for the mail to receive a hard copy.

Denise Robinson makes a **motion** that we will be mailing these out 60 days prior to the next LSC meeting for action, and we can get them in the mail to everyone so they can look over them and we can act upon them at the October meeting.

The LSC can save a lot of money by doing away with postage, paper and copy expenses.

The Policies and Procedures will have to be changed to reflect e-mail; it currently states that notice is by mail.

Bill Nixon proposes to change notification via the NTS website 60 days prior to next meeting of proposed changes to Policies and Procedures.

David Beans says that notification must be made by mail to all members, and I'm afraid that would take approval from USA Swimming if we decided to change that. But I'm basically saying that if we want to change the Policies and Procedures 60 days; so we can just do it via website and e-mail everyone that we're going to be making changes and they need to check the website out 60 days prior to the next meeting.

Bill Nixon proposes the following changes to § 5.2.3 of the Policies and Procedures to bring this LSC in line with USA Swimming so that meets can be sanctioned under USA Swimming as follows: *[strikethrough is deleted; bold / underline is new addition]*

5.2 NORTH TEXAS SWIMMING REQUIREMENTS:

* * *

.3 List of Certified Officials, as follows:

- A. Referee
- B. Starter - ~~May be the same person as the Referee.~~**
- C. Stroke and Turn Judges
- D. Chief Timer
- E. Meet Marshal
- F. Electronic Timing System Operator (if electronic timing system is used, see sec. X)

**USA Swimming has changed their wording. We need to delete "may also be the referee."

Bill Nixon makes a **motion** to delete "May be the same person as the Referee." The motion is **seconded** and it **passes**.

Bill Nixon states that in order to sanction a meet, the teams will need to provide three names: Referee, Starter, and Stroke and Turn Judge.

Amendments – Jack Dowling finds the following in the Policies and Procedures:

13.1 AMENDMENTS: These Policies and Procedures may be amended at any meeting of the House of Delegates by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. At least thirty (30) days written notice shall be given to every member of the House of any proposed amendment. Any amendment not submitted or proposed in time to give thirty (30) days written notice to the House may be adopted only by nine-tenths (9/10ths) vote of the House of Delegates present and voting.

You can actually change the method of notice at this meeting with 9/10ths vote of the House to do it via the web.

David Beans asks if anybody has a problem with getting notice by the web instead of by mail. Karen Rourke states that it becomes extremely important for people to let the LSC know when they change their e-mail addresses, and Nancy French has posted a list periodically of e-mail addresses that are no longer good. David states that we should probably mail these proposed changes this time. The effective date will be the date we vote on it in October.

Nominating Committee – Need five people to make up the nominating committee to nominate the following positions: Age Group Vice, Secretary and TPC Chairman. No one volunteered, so David will select the committee.

General discussions – **Scholarships** - an athlete questioned the criteria for selecting scholarship recipients. The selection criteria was the problem – no one could agree. It was voted down. Denise states that right now it is a non-issue. Chris MacCurdy states that he would like to see it considered. Denise tells him the only way it will work is if the coaches will agree. Everyone there that wasn't a coach was for it. The coaches were against it. They actually convinced their athletes to vote against it and afterwards the athletes came up to Denise and asked if they just voted themselves out of getting scholarships? And she told them they did. Chris doesn't think the concept was voted down, it was just the criteria was the biggest concern – they couldn't agree on the criteria. Denise states that it has to be a coach-driven issue (the criteria) or it won't ever pass. The athlete states that perhaps some athletes should be involved in the process. Denise says that the athletes were in favor of offering scholarships for kids that weren't swimming in college because they knew they had given their heart and soul to swimming their whole life and sacrificed so much and they thought that was very fair. However, coaches thought it was very unfair to give scholarships to athletes that weren't continuing on with swimming.

Administration – Linda Larsen has relinquished her position as LSC Forms (certificates, DQ pads, etc.) contact. Karen Rourke is taking over the handling of this position.

8. Resolutions and Orders – None made.

9. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Hudgens