

FL OC Meeting, FL Annual Meetings – October 5, 2013

Attendees: Matt Wilson - Chair, Bob Griffiths – Vice Chair, John Russo, Debbie Landis, Tom Tiedt, Mark McCaw, Randy Reese, Clay Parnell, Dave Nesper, Judi Wojcik, Stephen Plapp, Tom McCaleb, Pam Wilson, Pat Baker, Jeff Smith, Charlie Rose, Kiki Cook, Andy Kaisrlik, Helen Kelly, Kevin Mizell, Maria Zambito, Jim Kelly

10:06 Meeting Called to Order

Motion to Approve Minutes (Landis). Second by Wojcik. Some changes were submitted.

Old Business:

Wilson mentions two areas up for appointment or reappointment. Mark McCaw is termed out and recommends Debbie Landis for the position. Debbie is willing to accept the position. Area 6 Judi Wojcik is willing to accept another term, but is focusing her efforts training others to take over the position.

Nomination for chair from OC Conf Call was Steve Plapp. Wilson received another email nomination for Kay Caldwell, who graciously declined the offer. Tom Tiedt has also offered to fill the chair position. McCaw asks whether a vice chair position exists. Griffiths mentions Bylaws, P&Ps and R&Rs don't agree. Smith says a task force is being put together to reconcile all the documents. Helen mentions items are missing from the documents. Landis mentions the VC position assists in the workload for the chair.

Nominations are Steve Plapp. Melissa nominated Tom Tiedt. No other nominations. Discussion: Steve has been Area 1 rep for six years and had been assisting Roger Deary while he was area rep. Officiated for about 15 years, at high school, college, USA swimming levels. Wants to focus bringing people up and expand the roles while retaining the veteran officials for a more smooth officiating experience. Steve doesn't have any current swimmers, but has been involved in swimming since 1997 when his youngest starting swimming.

Tom has been a swimmer and has "thrown" himself into the mix because he supports the mission of swimming. He has had the pleasure of officiating at all levels. Tom says he enjoys the interaction between coaches and officials, and swimmers. Has the available time to devote to that area. Was a corporate executive, including involvement in politics. He is motivated to help the kids, both through their bodies and minds. Tom enjoys watching the great family atmosphere at the meets he has attended.

Written ballots were distributed to Bob Griffiths (representing Area 3), Tom McCaleb (Area 4), Steve Plapp (Area 1), Judi Wojcik (Area 6), Dave Nesper (representing Area 2, Clay Parnell (coach), Randy Reese (coach), Mark McCaw (Area 5). John Russo collected and tabulated ballots. He announced Steve Plapp would be the committee's nomination.

Smith wanted to know who was interested the vice chair position. Tom T. indicated interested.

Admin Official was the next topic for discussion. Tom McCaleb emailed a proposal earlier in the week. The proposal had a difference between certified officials, such as Meet Referee (MR) who should know the rules and should be required to pass all four tests rather than just the Timing Judge test. Griffiths mentions the currently certified MRs passed the tests as part of their certification requirements, but

needed a refresher on the timing adjustment operations, thus the requirement for the Timing Judge test. Griffiths reminded all that MRs can't act as AO, and AO can't act as deck official. USA Swimming HOD voted it needed to be a stand-alone position. Requiring Clinic attendance and the TJ test were meant to refresh memories and skill sets. Wilson says feedback has been that some operators won't share data or allow AOs to see any adjustments, thus the process is now opening the eyes of many. So far, 150 people have gone through clinics, and 40 have followed through on AO requirements. Some are still in the process of completing tests and apprentice sessions. MRs are now recognizing they need to keep an eye on operations, and helping operators to learn the systems. The four tests are now consolidated to one on the USA Swimming test, and its title in the testing list is "Administrative Official." Tom again suggests MRs take all four tests. MRs, once completing their AO certification requirements will be certified as an AR and that certification is reflected on their certification cards through OTS. Smith would like to see computer operators have an easier path to certification. Tom asked about whether the AO needs to be the one person who needs to know everything. Judi comments the AOs need to know enough to ask the right questions. USAS is only asking that we try to make the times correct. Melissa mentions Hytek training for all operators as a possibility. Dave Nesper mentions there are many operators are learning how to run the systems, but are afraid to learn and be *responsible* for running the systems. Mentions he is now an AO and knowledgeable enough to help troubleshoot. Nesper mentions the need for the AO position and provides as an example of a time his daughter had a time in SWIMS that was way too fast, but it took three years before she caught up to the time.

Griffiths mentions sometimes one session is enough to prove a person knows how to work one of the systems, and they're allowed to get credits for that knowledge. He further mentions some scoring operators are just choosing the fastest time rather than the accurate and verifiable time. Judi mentions we have a good handle on getting the certifications in place. She says the program in place is allowing us to get people moving forward. Melissa comments the Timing Judge component is important to reconcile times, not just learning how to run the timing and scoring systems. McCaleb says don't need to be proficient on the machines, but need to understand the timing operations. Tiedt says operating knowledge on the two consoles isn't as important as much as having a person who can work with all the operators. Charlie comments the process seems complicated and confusing. He wants to go with the minimum. Dave asks whether we can go to two sessions for apprenticing. Melissa explains from a USA Swimming perspective how the two sessions came about and that was because some LSCs have only one meet a month and very few pools in their LSCs, thus they needed the minimum sessions to comply with the new rule. Baker asks about a list of the people responsible for certifying AOs. Wilson says Area Reps, along with a group of other designees who have served in that position.

McCaleb motions to propose two sessions as apprentice with a certified Admin Official. Plapp seconds. Discussion from Griffiths says he's OK with that but concerned that all AOs aren't fully experienced to teach or mentor prospective AOs. Judi questions how is "knowledge" of an AO determined? Smith would like USA Swimming minimum standards to be the basics. Plapp wants to know who can be the certifiers and how we can increase the mentors and certifiers. Lengthy discussion on numbers of sessions for apprenticeship, qualified mentors and certifiers, lots of evolving documents and requirements. Griffiths mentions adjusting apprentice log with "knows procedures" ...wants to add understands importance of meet announcement, understands how to work with MR. Friendly amendment addition from Griffiths is:

"Two or more sessions with a certified Administrative Official. Certification in the position will depend on experience and understanding. There will be no prelims/finals requirement."

Plapp calls the question. Motion carries unanimously.

Discussion about McCaleb's MR requirements includes taking all four tests. Tom wants to remove that portion of his proposal and agree that MR takes only the TJ test. Pam suggest the recert include some of the other testing for 2014. Motion that new wording will be " All MRs takes TJ test. New AOs can complete the tests they've started or just take the AO cert test. New MRs who took the TJ test as of Jan. 1, 2013 do not need to take the TJ test again and will be certified as an AR."

Tom Motions, Judi seconds, unanimous approval.

Awards: Cruciger Award: Ellen Johnson, TPA; Soltis Award: Melvin Barber, CFM

Charlie asked for a clarification on the 4-hour rule.

Wilson and Griffiths received presents and appreciation for their service to the Officials Committee.

Motion to adjourn was seconded, and the meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Hellervik-Bing