

Metropolitan Swimming
Board of Directors Meeting
April 21, 2010
Lehman College

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Robert Vializ, General Chair.

Present at meeting: Robert Vializ, Steve Newman, Mike Morrissey, Corinne Cody, Jeff Chu, George Rhein, Bea Hartigan, and Mary Fleckenstein

Bob explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Hall of Fame Dinner and the decision to cancel for this year and revamp for future.

Bea Hartigan asked to address the board and read from a prepared statement. Bea offered that the HOF dinner was a chance for Scholarship winners, senior champions, Metro National record breakers and previous HOF inductees to be honored. She said a mailing list was developed, invitations sent to special honorees and certificates made. She listed many other improvements she has made in regards to the dinner. She does not know how to increase attendance to the dinner and you can't stack the inductees.

She offered the following: did not know there was a lack of notifications for nominations, no time table, and the possibility that voting was not done properly (sent to all committee eligible HOF voting members). Committee never met. She suggested that we call the dinner the Metro Awards and HOF dinner.

Resurrection of the HOF dinner and a permanent place for the HOF plaques was discussed – we have a display case.

Response from Board:

Complaints were received from HOF committee members that did not receive ballots for votes for various reasons. The event is in decline – lack of participation.

The board met and discussed and determined to put a hold on this years HOF dinner and form a committee to look at the whole package. Make sure it is being done properly. This is not a reflection on any individual and how they ran the dinner.

There is no plan to cancel permanently.

Short discussion followed on nomination process, which needs to be beyond reproach. All members of Metro should receive the opportunity to nominate.

Committee will look into the process, the timing and other aspects of the dinner and report back to the board. Committee members and past inductees will all be contacted for input. Information will be posted to the web site.

Bob made a motion to have Steve Newman head the Hall of Fame Revitalization Committee. Jeff seconded, all in favor. Motion carried. Thanks Steve!

Steve will look into revamping dinner, process. Committee members can be people outside swimming community.

The committee will explore all aspects of the HOF and present recommendations by the September House of Delegate meeting.

Steve accepted all Hall of Fame information and records from Bea.

Next General Chair will appoint Hall of Fame Committee Chair.

Awards normally presented at the HOF dinner will be presented at the May HOD meeting: Scholarships (Officials will notify the athletes and coaches); senior champs; record breakers; outstanding service.

Steve's email is sn100@optonline.net if you would like to join the process.

Other Business:

Jeff asked about redoing the Metro Code of Conduct. It was discussed that there are strict USA Swim guidelines and we follow that protocol.

Tom Cohill from East Hampton Y was selected to coach Youth Games in Italy. Recruitment for athletes is on the web site.

Corinne motioned for Metro to spend \$107 a year to upgrade the QuickBooks online so the budget and financial reports can be done with budget to actual, making the reports easier to read. George seconded. All in favor – motion carries.

Jeff made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m., Mike seconded – all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Bea Hartigan
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Robert Vialez, General Chair
Metropolitan Swimming, Inc.
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Dear Mr. Vialez,

As noted in my brief reply to your e-mail of March 10th, relative to the Metro Hall of Fame Committee, I herewith respond to your proposed actions in detail.

First, as noted in my reply, at the very least, your action was precipitate. To cancel this year's installation dinner when the pre-event work is underway and actually ahead of previous years, is incredible. Among the effects of cancellation are:

- Last year's inductee, Bill Irwin, was unable to attend because of post surgical orders from his doctor not to travel. We assured him he could attend in 2010 and receive his award then. He is a well remembered coach and would draw attendees.
- The Joseph Stetz Scholarship winners and their families have consistently expressed their appreciation at not only receiving their scholarships, but that they were invited to such an inspiring dinner, with the chance to hear about and meet people who have had such an impact on our sport.
- The Inductees themselves particularly express their gratitude. An example is Woody Davis, who couldn't believe he would receive an award without pressure to "Fill tables", yet many came because of him.
- With the dinner now having a regular position on the calendar, the likelihood of rekindling interest in the future is slim if it is interrupted like this.
- Others in Metro are also honored, including the Sr. Champions – Individual and Team, Age Group and Senior Coach of the year, Outstanding Service Award and any National Records set. Recognition at another time/place would not be the same. This has become the "Metro Annual Dinner" that was attempted a few times in the past and never really settled into existence.

In reviewing the minutes of the February Board meeting, there are a couple of items of note. First of all, your name is not listed as either attending or absent/excused. Indeed, George Rhein is noted as calling the meeting to order.

Second, according to the minutes, the entire meeting took only 55 minutes and at least two items are noted as having "Long discussions". It is hard to believe that a full and frank discussion took place with regard to the Metro Hall of Fame. It certainly had to have been one-sided.

Third, although some remarks about the Hall of Fame are made, there is no mention of any motion, second or vote on anything pertaining to the Hall of Fame. Therefore, one has to question how you can state “- - - it has been decided - - -.”

It took several years to get the Dinner to the point where preparations, including selection of the date, happened in timely fashion. Various embarrassing situations occurred, the worst of which was when a search for a deceased inductee’s family was instituted only a matter of days before the event! Even worse, the widow lived within a few miles of the dinner’s site and was listed in the public phone directory!!!

Without going into any further detail of what preceded the 2008 iteration, many strides have been made.

1. An actual mailing list has been developed and is used for invitations.
2. Proper, specific invitations go to invitees – Inductees, Scholarship winners, etc. on attractive 32lb parchment paper using a script font.
3. A parchment certificate, suitable for framing, was developed for presentation to the Scholarship winners along with their checks.
4. A proper check-in list of guests is now generated for the evening.
5. A full accounting of all income and expenses is done.
6. A complete inventory of all the honoree plaques was made. It was decided, in consultation with Bob, that replacing missing ones and repairing damaged ones would not be undertaken until a more secure place for display of them could be found.
7. The topic of a new location for the HoF has been broached a few times but no thoughts or suggestions have been forthcoming. One site that would be central to the LSC, was explored but a proper proposal has not been formed.
8. Upon finally receiving most of the previous year’s videotapes, arrangements were made to have them professionally transferred to DVDs and copies have been made for presentation to honorees who are alive or have known family.
9. It was deemed reasonable to follow the previous practice regarding getting ballots out to the committee members. This also meant a covering letter that, among other things, included a Save-the-Date reminder and noted any new Nominees. It also asked for future nominees. This was the case for 2008, 2009 and 2010.
10. No later than April 1st, the proper invitations went out to the elected Inductees, inviting them and their spouses as our guests.
11. As soon as the people were made known to us, the Coach, Scholarship and National Record Setters were sent proper invitations. In the case of the Coaches, their spouses were also invited, in the case of the Scholarship and Record Setters, the swimmers’ parents were invited as our guests.
12. A properly printed program has been produced for the last two Dinners, the content of which was assembled and set up by me.
13. Awards were ordered well in advance and were on hand for presentation.

A question has been posed as to how to increase attendance. When that was asked before, my response was, "I don't know." Upon further reflection, one thing that resulted in a large turnout was when popular coaches were inducted and their former swimmers learned on the grapevine and turned out. Obviously, we can't "Stack" the inductions. They must be of worthy note. But certainly, if some of the previous inductees could be asked for a list of friends/family to whom we could send a notice, that might work.

Meanwhile, if the dinner is resurrected, emphasizing the other award presentations and calling it the "Metropolitan Swimming Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Induction Dinner" would make it easier to press the clubs to send participants. Our price is certainly well below many other such events!

In addressing the only two remarks in the minutes of the February meeting, I offer the following:

That the nominations were not done – as noted in my e-mail response, the Committee is asked to send in nominations at any time. There is no "Nominating time table." Metro members are equally entitled, indeed encouraged, to submit nominations at any time.

That voting was not done properly – an e-mail letter with the ballot was sent to all members of the committee. A tally was done.

IN BOTH CASES, this was a continuation of what had been the procedure for the preceding years, since the inception of the Metro Hall of Fame in 1999.

The one goal that I had set was to attempt to have an actual meeting of the committee, not an easy task when one considers that many do not even reside in Metro. For various reasons, that has not been accomplished as of this time.

At this point, I can only hope that there will be a resumption of the Metro Hall of Fame inductions and that a fitting, secure permanent place is found for an actual "Hall". I believe there are many items of memorabilia out there in addition to the plaques, which deserve to be a part of such an institution. The recognition of those in our sport who have accomplished so much in so many ways, deserves to be presented and preserved in a manner befitting those accomplishments.

Respectfully,

Bea Hartigan

Presented at Board of Director's meeting,
April 21, 2010