

METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.
HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING
Saturday, September 30, 2006

1: CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, and INTRODUCTIONS:

After delaying the start for 15 minutes due to an accident on the Hutchinson Parkway, the House of Delegates meeting came to order at 8:45am at the White Plains, YWCA.

The list of Clubs in attendance is at the Metro office. Mary Fleckenstein welcomed everyone present at the Fall House of Delegates meeting.

2: ACCEPTANCE/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES:

24a: New Business: Richie Finkelstein: Positions available: NYU is looking for an assistant **aquatics** director and Flushing YMCA is looking for an **aquatics** director.

David Ellinghaus made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2006 House of Delegates meeting. The motion was seconded and accepted by all. Minutes were accepted as corrected.

3: GENERAL CHAIR: Mary Fleckenstein

- a) **Convention Recap:** Everyone that went to the Convention in Dearborn, Michigan, did a written report. Copies of those reports were inserted in the clubs packets or were available on the back table. Please take the time to read them to see what went on at the Convention.
- b) **Background Check Screening program:** This is the most important thing to be aware of right now as the program is being implemented starting with the 2007 registrations. Right now five LSC's have already started the program. Other LSC's will follow. The first people that will need to go through with the program are coaches and prospective coach members. In the future, all officials, Board members and non-athletes will also be required to go through the Background Screening Program. Coaches will be responsible for doing it themselves once Metropolitan Swimming is asked to start the program. It will be done online and if the applicant passes screening, that result will be sent electronically to SWIMS where it will be reflected like the coaches' safety certifications. The program, to be repeated every two years, will be looking for *any conviction of, imposition of a deferred sentence for, or any plea of guilty or no contest at any time, past or present, or the existence of any pending charges, for (i) any felony, (ii) any offense involving use, possession, distribution or intent to distribute illegal drugs or substances, or (iii) any crime involving sexual misconduct.* If the background screen returns a finding of a potential disqualifier for membership, a process has been devised for review of the accuracy of the information and/or appeal to an established National panel. If membership is not ultimately granted, SWIMS will display no information. The cost for the years 2007-2009 will be \$20. It will be paid by the applicant to the USA Swimming National selected provider TC logiQ Inc. Coaches will not be able to re-register if the background check does not come back clear.
- c) **2008 Spring Long Course Speedo Championship:** Metro bid and was accepted to host the 2008 Spring Long Course Speedo Championship (Sectionals), March 6-9, 2008. As 2008 is an Olympic year, the meet will be long course and it will be held at Nassau County Aquatic Center at Eisenhower Park. This will be a Metro-run meet so we will be looking for volunteers!

4: TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Ann Senecal

- a) The treasurer's report was not available at the meeting. Mary Ann thanked Corinne Cody for setting up the new format for reports.

- b) Some teams did not receive their checks for summer meets' stipends. Mary Ann asked Marist, LIE and YMID to see her at the meeting.
- c) Some teams still owe entry fees for long course JO's.
- d) Bea mentioned an odd figure of \$425 in the actual budget report 7025-16. Mary Ann will check on this.

5: FINANCE CHAIR: Corinne Cody

- a) Copies of the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual from September 2005 through August 2006 and of the Profit & Loss Budget Overview from September 2006 through August 2007 were available at the meeting. Corinne went over the proposed budget and said that we pretty much hit our budget last year. The number of athletes and non-athletes registrations remains constant. Increase is due to increased price. Surcharges are increased to reflect an increase in the number of meets on the calendar. Senior Mets revenue increased to allow for bonus events and entries from outside teams into the Summer Senior Mets. The age group recognition program has been added in this year's budget. There is an increase in the coaches' clinics budget. There will be a reduction of about 15% for the Zone budget since the Eastern Zone is not changing the format of the short course Zone meet after all.
- b) David Ellinghaus made a motion to accept the budget as presented. Lenny Galluzzi seconded the motion. Vote was called: **motion carries**.

6: ADMINISTRATIVE VICE CHAIR: George Rhein

- a) George went over his report from the Convention. The 3-page report was available on the table in the back of the room and is available on the Metro Website. Some of the meetings that George attended were: Officials Committee Meeting Workshop, LSC Financial Management & Investment Committee, Sport Science and Technology, Reimbursement Committee meeting, and Sports Medicine Science. There is now a \$40 per swimmer stipend to teams hosting meets where a disabled swimmer competes. Must be a permanent physical or mental impairment.
- b) Club Achievement Program Applications for 2006 will be available on the website within a few days. Same format as last week. Important dates to remember:
 1. October 31st – applications will be due back at the Metro office.
 2. November 15th – clubs will be notified of their status and Grant applications will be mailed back to these qualifying clubs.
 3. December 5th – the Grant applications from all qualifying clubs will be due back at the Metro Office.
 4. January 2007 LSC House of Delegates Meeting – George will announce all the Grants that will be awarded for this year.

A report of what the Clubs did with their Grant last year will be included with the minutes. Nine Clubs qualified last year and seven applied for the Grant.

7: SENIOR CHAIR: Brian Brown

- a) Brian's report from the Convention was available at the meeting. Some of the highlights were:
 1. 5-full day format for the Summer Nationals, beginning in 2007
 2. The 2006-2008 National Team Quadrennial Plan emphasizes long course swimming by arranging for a short "Short Course Season" from September to December, and a long "Long Course Season" from January to August.
 3. The "Short Course Season" will culminate in a three-day December Short Course Championship in the first week of the month (where the US Open traditionally was), followed by a LCM one-day time trial meet the next day.
 4. The LC season will consist of a series of Grand Prix meets leading up to the National Championship and Junior Meets in August. At this time the 2007 Sectional meets will be conducted in the SC format and the 2008 Sectional meet (hosted by Metro

at Eisenhower Park) will be a LC event in order for swimmers to qualify for the Olympic Trials.

5. Olympic Trials will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26 to July 6, 2008 (8-day format).
- b) Brian reported on the Olympic Steering Committee meetings, the facilities report (steel pools, concrete pools, architectural membrane), and the Club Recognition Programs: IMX and Virtual Club Championships Programs. Carle Fierro questioned the fact that USA-Swimming doesn't include the 10-under age group in the Virtual Club Championship Program. Brian replied that he believes USA-Swimming doesn't want to over emphasize 10-under swimming, as very few 10 & under swimmers that are Top 16 at that age are still in the Top 16 when they are 16-year-old. A long discussion followed and Brian's suggestion was to contact USA-Swimming to get a more accurate answer on this subject.

8: AGE GROUP CHAIR: Paul Furbeck and Bob Vializ

- a) Paul gave his report on the Long Course Zone Meet in Buffalo where Metro won two championships: the Team Overall Championships and the Girls Overall Championships. The swimmers swam extremely well and Paul was very proud of the way they behaved. Metro had 42 swimmers qualifying for finals, 19 individual champions, 12 relays champions, 29 Top 16 Consideration cuts, 3 meet records, 3 relay meet records, 1 Junior Nationals cut and 3 Open Water finalists. Paul thanked the coaches that worked at Zones and Kristen DeGrazia for a great job as athletes' Representative at Zones.
- b) Paul announced that there will be an Age Group Coaches Clinic, sponsored by Metropolitan Swimming and Suffolk County Swim Coaches Association. The clinic will be held at Nassau County Aquatic Center at Eisenhower Park on October 14 and 15, 2006. Registration forms were available at the meeting. John Leonard will be the Course Instructor. Fee for the clinic is \$25 per coach (\$40 after October 5th).
- c) Bob took over and reported on a few changes for Age Group for this year:
 1. Winter Junior Olympics: we will try to make it more exciting by adding music during finals, more awards, high point for teams and for age groups.
 2. Short Course Zones – there will be no Zone Qual. meet this year. There will be a qualifying period that will go from December 1, 2006 to the last day of JO's and will include the Y-State meet as well. Consideration for the Zone Team will be by application. Swimmers must have achieved the 2007 Zone Qualifying cuts within the qualifying period and must send in their applications and full payment to the Metro Office by March 12, 2007. Exception to this rule is for swimmers that achieve their first ZQ time at JO's (or Y-State). They will be able to apply at that time. We will also update the times of swimmers if they swim faster at JO's. If an athlete is chosen to go to Zones, there will be no refund. If an athlete is not chosen, the check will be returned. A Zones committee will make the final selection.
 3. Coaches must send an application if they want to be on the Zone Team.
 4. There will be a "Duty Agreement Form" for the chaperones. This form will have to be signed by each chaperone.
 5. Contract with Hobie Swim has expired and we are currently sending an RFP to get bids for the Zone Team Equipment supplier for the 2007 and 2008 SC & LC Zones. We will also purchase 2 new Metro Banners.
 6. Age Group Development Committee has been meeting by email. It will be based on the SWIMS program and will reward age group athletes that have achieved a large percentage of improvement within a set period of time – times prior to December 1st and times between December 1st and the Age Group meets.
 7. Bob also gave his report from the Convention. He attended the Risk Management Workshop which focused on a description of USA Swimming's insurance program and optional insurance coverage available to the clubs and LSCs [remember to submit your Reports of Occurrence], Background Screening, Club Development Program, and Parents Education. The report is available on the Metro Website.

- d) David Ellinghaus asked if the Zone Team Committee would also select the individual events for swimmers that qualify in more than 6 events. Bob said yes, but that the committee will also take recommendations from those swimmers' coaches. The final decision will be made by the committee.
- e) The updated Age Group Time Standards and Senior Mets Time Standards were available at the meeting. The time standards and the team manager export file of the standards will be posted on the Metro Website. One correction: the Zone Qual. time for the 15-18 girls 100 breaststroke is 1:12.59 (not 1:12.56).

9: COACHES' REPRESENTATIVES: Scott Bartleson

- a) Coaches **must** have their coaches' cards, with their current certifications, visible on deck at all meets (no exception). It is also the coaches' responsibilities to update their certifications. It is a risk problem (USA-Swimming Insurance policy). Don't expect the meet directors to call Barry from the meets to confirm that you are certified.
- b) "**Coach of the Year**" – two different awards: Age Group Coach of the Year and Senior Coach of the Year. Scott will establish a program that would give the best solution to get a coaches' vote for those coaches' awards.
 1. Nominations must be e-mailed to Scott's email address (please check website).
 2. We will need a minimum of 5 nominees for Age Group and 5 nominees for Senior Coach.
 3. Emails must be sent within the nomination period of February 16 to April 7, 2007.
 4. Criteria for nomination are: years of experience coaches have, their primary accomplishment within the time period for qualification, their club affiliation and the level they coach.
 5. Coaching period for qualification of nominees is from June 2006 to April 2007. This includes summer and winter performances.
 6. The vote will be made at the May meeting and the awards will be given at the Hall of Fame Dinner.

10: ATHLETES REPRESENTATIVE: Steffi Niessl and Kristen DeGrazzia

Steffi's report from the Convention was available at the meeting. Athletes from all teams were asked to sign in. Steffi and Kristen held a meeting for all the Athletes Representatives.

- a) This year was an election year for many positions on the Zone and National levels. The athletes were able to learn how the candidates presented themselves and how the voting process was carried through.
- b) They attended meetings and talked about current issues facing athletes today, like Fina's attempt at making athletes look like "walking billboards" by requiring them to wear bibs over their warm-ups while walking out for finals, or wear certain caps with advertising on them. They talked about prize money and how it may affect a swimmer's eligibility to compete in college if they also compete on a National or International level.
- c) At this meeting with the Metro Athletes' Representatives Steffi and Kristen made a presentation on peer pressure and appropriate behavior at swim meets or at swim camps. Sometimes opportunities present themselves and athletes make bad decisions. They must understand that we all have responsibilities and that they must consider their behavior at all time and know that there will be consequences for their actions. Athletes must remember that the way they present themselves will reflect back on their teams, their coaches, their families, their communities and themselves.
- d) Kristen mentioned that a task Force is considering shortening the convention schedule for athletes next year (only 2 days of meetings instead of 4), improving pre-convention education and communication with the LSCs athlete reps. A big topic at the Convention was diversity and how less than 20 percent of swimmers are minorities. They also talked about the background check that is being implemented.

11: OFFICIALS CHAIR: Holger Fietkau & Kris Sawicz

- a) Joseph Stetz Memorial Scholarship Award – Applications are available on the website. They will be due no later than January 30, 2007.
- b) Clinics: an officials' clinic was scheduled to take place after the HOD. Additional Clinics:
 1. New & Recertification: October 4, 2006 at 7:00pm at Flushing YMCA, Queens, NY
 2. Meet Director: November 14, 2006 at 6:30pm at TVSC/Ward Melville HS in Long Island
- c) Holger thanked everybody for doing a great job at recruiting more officials.

12: ZONE TEAM COORDINATOR: Barry Roffer

- a) Barry will get in touch with hotels and bus companies for winter Zones 2007.
- b) See Age Group for more information on the 2007 Zone Team selection.

13: REGISTRATION COORDINATOR: Barry Roffer

- a) Registration for 2007 is \$53 for athletes and non-athletes. Applications were available at the meeting and in the clubs packets and are posted on the website as well.
- b) Paper registration is not allowed except for non-athletes. Registration should be done with Hy-Tek Team Manager and can be emailed BUT hard copy and check must be mailed to the office. Registrations will not be accepted without a check! Registrations will be held until the check is received. Please make sure that you run a hard copy of the registration export file so you can verify that all swimmers are exported on your file. All registrations must be in the office no later than December 1, 2006
- c) Any swimmer that swims in a meet without being registered will be fined up to \$100 per occurrence.
- d) There is a \$5 fee for all transfers.
- e) No personal checks will be accepted except from non-athletes.
- f) All information on the registrations forms **MUST** match what is in the database for SWIMS. Barry will let coaches know of their mistakes but if the same swimmer is sent back three times because there is an error of missing initial, or a name spelled incorrectly, then the team will be fined \$100 each time the swimmer info comes back incorrectly. Clubs have to January 1, 2007 to correct their database.

14: NATIONAL TIMES VERIFICATION/TOP 16: Monique Grayson/Mary Ann Senecal

- a) Mary Ann mentioned that the Holding Tank is all cleaned up after last year. We only had one meet so far and all went OK. There will be a joined Times and Registration people workshop in April 2007.
- b) Monique & Mary Ann went to convention. They attended all the SWIMS, NTV and Top 16 workshops. Monique also attended most of the Registration meetings, the Age Group Parents' Education workshop, and the Board of Review workshop. Both Mary Ann and Monique's reports are also available on the website.
- c) Meet directors must make sure that their meets are set up properly. Meets ID must be in the following format: 2006 MR (club ID) (Meet Name) as [2006 MR BGNW Fall Season Starter]
- d) Meet directors must correct all mistakes after they receive the meet registration recon from Barry.
- e) Make sure that all relays are correct with all four swimmers included. Make sure that the lead off swimmer is actually the swimmer that swam in that position. Too many relays have to be deleted from SWIMS because of errors.
- f) After a meet is held, meet directors must email a full meet backup database to Monique (NY City and North) or Mary Ann (Queens and LI) so they can upload meet results to SWIMS. Teams using MM 2.0 database are asked **not** to check the box that says "Lock Database back-up as Read-Only for Results, Splits, and Relay Names" as if this is checked, we will not be able to make any correction to the database if it's needed before uploading the results to SWIMS..

15: WEB PAGE COORDINATOR: Monique Grayson

- a) Monique attended the "Best Practice for LSC Webmasters" workshop as well as the "Advance Website Development for LSC Webmasters" workshop while at the Convention.
- b) If something needs to be posted on the website, please send it to Monique. Also email Monique if you find mistakes or errors or broken links on the website. Let us know what you like and what you don't like!

16: TECHNICAL PLANNING: David Ellinghaus

- a. The updated time standards for the 2007 Metro meets (Age Group, Silvers, JO's, Zone Qual. and Senior Mets) are included in the coaches' packets. They are posted on the Metro Website. (Please correct the ZQ time for 15-18 girls 100 breaststroke to 1:12.59 (not 1:12.56). A few standards have been tightened but for the most part they are the same as last year, except for the Zone Qualifying column. Those cut-off times are a bit tighter this year. We are not running a Zone Qualifier meet and there is no reason for Barry to get 24 or more applications for each event. We took the 16th place entry in each event from the Zone Qual meets of the last two years, averaged them and came up with a time. This still allows more than enough applications to come in, more applications for us to chose from, but there is no need to go beyond that.
- b. A Technical Planning meeting will be scheduled in the near future. Please check the website for information. The main topic for that meeting is going to be to clarify the rules and differences between regular meets and invitationals, and come up with a concrete set of standards for invitationals that are run in Metro.
- c. Two corrections on meet dates: Big Blue January meet of January 12-13: Friday session will now be held on Sunday morning (January 13-14, 2007) and Pace Setters January 20th meet will now be held on January 21st due to conflict with Pace University College meet.

17: SAFETY COORDINATOR: Carolyn Johnson

- a) Carolyn Johnson had nothing to report. See Bob Vializ' report from Convention Re: Risk Management. This report is posted on the Metro Website.

18: HALL OF FAME: Len Galluzzi

- a) The nominations forms should be in every team's packet and in every voting member's packets. Forms were also available at the meeting and are posted on the website.
- b) The Hall of Fame banquet will take place on the Tuesday May 22, 2007.

19: DISABILITIES COORDINATOR: Corinne Cody

- a) All meet directors are reminded that, as part of the sanction requirements, their meet information must include the following sentences: "Swimmers with Disabilities are encouraged to attend".

20: SWIM-A-THON: Rich Finkelstein

- a) No report at this time

21: OPEN WATER COORDINATOR: Bea Hartigan

- a) Brian Brown covered some of the Open Water report (see Senior Chair). After 25 years, Open Water is now an official event at the Olympics. We should start training more of our swimmers do swim Open Water events.
- b) The 2007 Metropolitan Open Water Championships will be on Sunday, July 14th in Huntington (based on tide and boating traffic).
- c) In 2007, we are going to be hosting, along with our regular Open water events, the US Masters 10 K National Championships. This is the third time that Metro will be hosting this event.
- d) The Age Group Chairs will offer an Age Group Open Water event before or after the

Metropolitan Open Water Championships. Three Metro swimmers participated in the Open Water Championships at Long Course Zones this summer.

22: OUTREACH COORDINATORS: Brian Brown and Larry Collins

- a) Copies of Brian's report on the Outreach Program were available at the meeting. He attended a presentation by John Cruzat, USA-S Diversity Specialist, and Ben Sheppard, Head Coach of Oakland Undercurrent Swim Team (<http://www.oaklandswimming.org>). Ben was very motivational and stressed engagement, involvement, integration, building a base of young swimmers, promoting the sport, bringing in first generation swimmers.
- b) LSCs and Clubs need to reach to the minorities to promote the sport and become more inclusive.

23: OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Bea Hartigan asked where the Age Group South meet will be held: Old Westbury Aquatics.

24: NEW BUSINESS:

- a) A clinic led by Maritza Correia and Cullen Jones was held at the Three Village Swim Club recently. It was a great clinic for the kids and a very positive experience for all kids and parents.
- b) On behalf of the summer zone coaching staff, Dave Ellinghaus mentioned that it was good to see Eric Culver (Viking Aquatic) here at the meeting, healthy and back in one piece. Eric was sick at summer zones and had to spend some time in the hospital. He was a great sport about it and still did best times while injured!

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:17am was made by David Ellinghaus, seconded by George Rhein, and accepted by all.

House of Delegates Meetings 2006-2007:

- **Wednesday, January 10, 2007 – 7:00pm at the White Plains YWCA – LC 2007 Bid meeting**
- **Wednesday, May 16, 2007 - 7:00pm at the White Plains YWCA – SC 2007-08 Bid meeting & Elections.**

Metro Board Meetings (subject to change):

Wednesday, November 15, 2006 at the Flushing YMCA
Wednesday, January 10, 2007 – HOD at the White Plains YWCA
Sunday, February 25, 2007 – at Lehman College between sessions of Senior Mets
Wednesday, April 18, 2007 – Budget meeting at NCAC (Eisenhower Park)
Wednesday, May 16, 2007 – HOD at the White Plains YWCA

Submitted by Monique G. Grayson
October 8, 2006