

METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

Saturday, September 24, 2011

1: CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, and INTRODUCTIONS:

The House of Delegates meeting came to order at 10:07am at the Lehman College APEX in The Bronx, NY. The list of Clubs and Athletes in attendance is at the Metro office.

Mike Morrissey, Interim General Chair, welcomed everyone present at the Fall House of Delegates' meeting and reminded all to check in with Mary Fleckenstein at the back table and get their club's registration packet. Mike requested a moment of silence to remember all those that we lost in the Swimming Community since our last meeting.

2: AWARDS:

- Mike Morrissey and Bruce Brooks are happy to announce that Corinne Cody was selected as the recipient of the Officials Maxwell Excellence Award by USA Swimming and Swimming World Magazine. The award was established to recognize officials who have made significant contributions to swimming. She is the first Metropolitan Swimming official to receive this award in at least ten years!
- Brian Brown received the USA Swimming Development Coach of the Year Award. Brian was not at the meeting but he did receive the award in person at the USA-S Convention in Jacksonville, Florida.
- Barry has now retired and we will miss him! Metropolitan Swimming, Inc. purchased a USA Swimming Lifetime Membership for Barry Roffer to thank him for all the years he spent as Metro Office Manager. Barry thanked the audience for supporting the Metro Office and Metropolitan Swimming and said that it was a great honor and great pleasure to work with all of us.

3: ACCEPTANCE/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES:

Scott Bartleson made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2011 House of Delegates meeting. The motion was seconded and accepted by all. Minutes were accepted as published on the Web site.

4: TREASURER'S REPORT: Corinne Cody

The treasurer's report was available at the meeting.

- Corinne presented the Budget vs. Actuals Report (Budget 2010-2011) for the year ended August 31, 2011 – We came over budget on a number of items. Total income \$309,581.68 – Total expenses \$246,367.55 – Excess of income over expenses \$63,214.13. Corinne reviewed many of the items.
- There are three items that we had planned expenses for that we did not use this year:
 - Senior Circuit
 - National Youth Team
 - Elite Select Camp
- There were items that we did not plan on spending money for but we actually did:
 - The Golden Goggle Awards Dinner that was held here in New York
 - The Background Check for all Metro Officials
- An audit of the books was done this summer. Corinne Cody, Mike Morrissey and an outside CPA went over everything. All checks written out to individuals will now need 2 signatures, including those under \$1000. It may take a bit longer to receive checks from Metro. We will not be processing anything that

is not properly documented with receipts. All requests must be received within 30 days of the expenditure.

- Discussion on Metropolitan Swimming policy on stipends reimbursement, especially for Nationals and for Olympic Trials. Dave Ferris made a motion that Metropolitan Swimming commit to give the Olympic Trials Stipend of \$1,500 to all Metropolitan Swimming registered athletes attending the OT in June. Corinne told Dave that this item would go back to the Finance/Budget committee for review.
- Dragos Coca made a motion to include the cash balance on all financial and budget reports. Corinne said that we could do that and that she does have a copy of the balance sheets as August 31st. It could be committed under the treasurer's report. As of August 31st, the total cash and cash equivalent for Metropolitan is \$667,000. The motion was seconded and approved by all. **Motion carries.**
- Dragos Coca asked Corinne to have the Operational Budget posted on the Web site at least 10 days before the HOD meeting. Corinne will make sure that the Budget is posted on the Web site once accepted.
- Dragos Coca reminded all that coaches of teams that received a Club Excellence Grant should be giving back to other coaches what they have learned and gained. This will be deferred to the Budget Committee and to the Club Excellence Committee as well.
- Dave Ferris is wondering why there is no line on the new Budget for the Club Excellence Program, as this was an item that had been voted on by the body at the LSC level. Mike Morrissey said that it was taken out at the Budget meeting, and that the goal was to look at some other program like Diversity and/or other programs. Dave responded that the Budget Committee does not have the right to take an item that was voted on by the LSC, out of the Budget. Corinne answered that this subject can be talked about during the Budget presentation and that the Delegates can decide to accept the Budget without this item or send it back to the Committee to revisit the Budget.
- A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report was made, seconded and approved by all.

5: BUDGET/FINANCE COMMITTEE: George Rhein

Copies of the Budget (version 1) were available at the meeting. George reviewed it all for the audience.

- The income for the year that just ended was higher than anticipated.
- One change to be made is for line 81 – Olympic Trial Stipend – the amount should be in the column for Budget 2012, not in the column for Budget 2013.
- Dave Ferris made a motion that the Olympic Trials Budget reflect the actual number of qualifiers attending the OT meet in June instead of a flat total amount of \$20,000. By the month of June, Metro may have 40 athletes or more qualifying for OT and the Budget must reflect at least this number. This should have been budgeted each year over the quadrennial. The motion was amended to budget \$60,000 (for 40 athletes) and to commit to pay \$1,500 to all Metro registered qualifiers attending OT even if the number of athletes exceeds 40. The motion was seconded and approved by all. **Motion carries as amended.**
- Dave Ferris said that the Budget Committee does not have the power to take out the \$20,000 that was allocated to the Club Excellence Program (line 95 on the Budget). This item will be send back to the Budget Committee to be corrected.
- David Ellinghaus made a motion that a Budget Committee not only look at the Club Excellence Program but also review the whole stipend process to insure that all level of stipends are funded properly, to make sure that our athletes get the stipends that they qualify for. George seconded this motion. Dave Ferris will chair the committee that will review this process. Other members of this committee will be George Rhein, David Ellinghaus, John Collins, Jeff McClung and Roger Ridenhour. **Motion carries.** The Committee report must be available by the January 2012 House of Delegates.
- Fred Fritsch recommended that we allocate money at the Age Group Level also. One way to do this would be to organize Age Group Clinics in each Region each year. Mike Morrissey suggested that the

Age Group committee write a proposal on the objectives and recommendations, and decide how much money will be needed. Corinne Cody mentioned that it must then be sent to the Budget Committee (before April 1, 2012) as a New Budget Item, as this can't be added from the floor to the Budget at this time. Fred and a few other coaches of each area would be included in this Age Group committee.

- A motion to accept the proposed Budget as corrected was made, seconded and accepted by all. **Budget was accepted with the exception of those items in question.**

6: OFFICIALS: Bruce Brooks

Bruce made a presentation about the Officials.

Contact Bruce at bruce.brooks@metroswimming.org or bbrooks124@gmail.com

- Metro Officials Area Chairs:
 - a. Hudson Valley North: Corinne Cody
 - b. Hudson Valley South: Bob Fitzsimmons (and assistants Phil Johanson & Mike Natale)
 - c. New York City: Kris Sawicz (and assistant Ann Fosteris)
 - d. Nassau County: Ari Nakkab (and assistant Gerard Lennon)
 - e. Suffolk County: Nelson Gonzalez (and assistant George Fleckenstein)
- Metro Leadership Committees:
 - a. Metro Rules: Paul McClintock
 - b. Education: Mark Amodio
 - c. Advance Committee: Steve Kessler

We now have seven N3 Certified Officials. We must continue to recruit new officials. Metro has been covering the cost of Background Check for all Metro officials.

7: ATHLETES REPORT: Gregg Byrne and Liyan Yao

Gregg made a report of the Athletes' meeting that was held during the House of Delegates.

- New USA Swimming rules that were voted on earlier in September at the House of Delegates at the Convention in Jacksonville, Florida: bullying and Athletes Protection in USA Swimming; not being friends with coaches on facebook; no camera devices in locker rooms; water temperature difference; qualifying periods; rules of missing an event and open water rules and regulations.
- New Deck Pass Program of USA Swimming where swimmers can sign up and get an account. This is a new way to share information with friends. Swimmers will collect virtual patches. Swimmers will earn patches for competing, for achieving motivational times, for getting a best time at a meet, etc... Coaches will be able to award patches to their swimmers as well.
- Review of the Make-A-Splash program
- Mike Morrissey praised the three athletes representatives that attended this year's Convention (Gregg Byrne, Frances Warren and Liyan Yao). They all behaved very well and had a great experience.

8: SPLASH FEES: Mike Morrissey

At the BOD meeting earlier today, the Board voted unanimously to raise the splash fees by \$1 per event - \$4 for timed final events in short course meets and \$5 for timed final events in long course meets starting in September 2012. A motion to accept the Board's recommendations was made, seconded and approved (one opposed). **Motion carries.** This will take effect September 1, 2012.

9: ELECTION OF GENERAL CHAIR:

Mary Fleckenstein has retired as Metro General Chair as of September 17, 2011 She was selected to take over the position of Metropolitan Swimming Office Manager that was left vacant upon Barry Roffer's retirement. At this time, we have received one nomination for General Chair: **Bob Vializ**. There were no nominations from

the floor. Nominations were then closed. Mike asked the secretary to cast one vote to nominate Bob Vializ as the new General Chair. All in favor. **Congratulations Bob!**

10: REGISTRATIONS: Mary Fleckenstein

- Registration information was in each team's packet.
- We have 461 registered coaches, 212 officials, 141 non-athletes, 9,588 athletes (5,320 females and 4,268 males), and 79 clubs
- Club applications must be filled out completely – a copy of the front page will be sent to National to verify the pre-employment screening section (box must be checked off) - Club application is \$150.
- Everything must be sent the right way – Registrations will not be processed without payment – Registration fee is \$58 for 2011-12 – payment may be done by credit card.
- Send all related emails to metro.office@metroswimming.org
- Athlete Protection Training – (APT) – all coaches and all non-athletes (officials, meet directors, others) must take the one hour training available on the USA Swimming Web site – there is a 10 multiple choice questions test at the end of the course. This MUST be completed before the 2012 registration can be processed. It went live on September 15th. The APT will be valid for 2 years.
- Coaches roster – reminder – if you are not listed on the web site – it means that you are missing something – please check your card to see what you need.
- Reminder: **All coaches MUST wear their credentials at ALL meets. No exceptions!**

11: NEW BUSINESS:

- Marty Zwiren announced that there are new lockers at the APEX pool and that tiles are being replaced.
- Larry Collins made a motion that warm-up at meets should have pre-assigned lanes and times for each team. This would make it a safer warm-up for all swimmers. Motion was seconded. Dave Ferris likes the proposal but would prefer to see it only for Age Group Meets, not at the Senior level. Motion was modified to reflect Dave's suggestion. Larry will look at it and work on this with the Age Group Committee.
- Dragos Coca would like to see a standardized nomination process for elections of Age Group and Senior "Coach of the Year". Discussion followed. The Coaches committee, Senior committee, and Age Group committee must get together and present a proposal in January.
- Condors will not be able to host the 8-Under Championships in March as they will no longer be able to have the pool that weekend at Felix Festa. Please contact the Technical Planning and the Age Group Chairs if you will be able to host that meet.

House of Delegates Meetings 2011-12:

- **Wednesday, January 11, 2012 – 7:00pm at Lehman – LC 2011 Bid meeting**
- **Wednesday, May 9, 2012 – tentative date - 7:00pm at Lehman – SC 2012-13 Bid meeting & Elections.**

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved by all. Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.

Submitted by Monique G. Grayson

October 9, 2011