

METROPOLITAN SWIMMING, INC.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

Saturday, September 19, 2015



1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, and INTRODUCTIONS:

The House of Delegates meeting came to order at 10:35am at Lehman College APEX in the Bronx (late start due to traffic problems in Long Island). The list of Clubs in attendance is at the Metro office.

John McIlhargy welcomed everyone in attendance at the meeting.

2. ACCEPTANCE/CORRECTIONS OF MINUTES:

A motion to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2015 House of Delegates as corrected was made, seconded and approved by all. Vote by acclamation – all in favor - **Motion carries.**

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion to approve the Agenda of the September 19, 2015 House of Delegates was made, seconded and approved by all. Vote by acclamation – all in favor - **Motion carries.**

4. GENERAL CHAIR : John McIlhargy

- a. **USAS Late convention - September 29-October 3, 2015** – this means that we had to have our HOD before the Convention.
- b. **Metropolitan Moments Newsletter** – will be posted online after Convention
- c. **USA Swimming Interests** – New study going on regarding boundaries of LSC's
- d. **Welcome to Metro's New Teams** – Freedom Aquatics - FREE; Bronx Works Blue Waves - BWWB; Lion Swim Academy - LSA; Queens Aquatic Club - QNS; Southern Westchester Aquatic Group – SWAG
- e. **Congratulations to our Scholar Athletes** – there were 45 ALL-American Scholar Athletes in Metro (up from 37 last year) – we are all incredibly proud of our athletes.
- f. **Galluzzi Scholarship** – Don Galluzzi would like to set up a scholarship in the name of his brother Lenny Galluzzi. We will work with Finance and Treasurer's chairs to look at legal issues and figure out ways to set this up. The idea is not for us to fund the scholarship but to support it.
- g. **Some Great Open Water Events this summer** – Huntington OW and Fire Island OW – Many thanks to Rob Ripp and Colleen Driscoll for their great events.
- h. **Strategic Planning** – Mac is looking for a small committee (3 or 4 – Coaches or representatives from outside of the Board) to work on long term Strategic Planning for the next 4 years – send names to Mac by email.
- i. **Spring Eastern Zone Meeting** – Metropolitan Swimming will be hosting this meeting within the Zone, in Atlantic City, NJ – May 6-7, 2016 –
- j. **Long Course Zone Meet 2016** – The Eastern Zone accepted Metro's bid to host the meet at Nassau County Aquatic Center – It will be hosted by 3 teams: Sachem, New York Sharks and Middies.

5. OFFICE MANAGER/REGISTRATION REPORT: Mary Fleckenstein

a. Final 2015 Registration Statistics compared to 2014:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Athletes	10,311	11,066	+755
Single Meet	148	128	-20
Other	173	170	-3
Coaches	547	625	+78
Officials	269	282	+13

Total 11,389 12,217 +828

*reminder some have 2 registration categories

b. **Cards/Registrations**

- Reminder that coaches must send in their CPR and Safety Training certificates. If you do the online Safety Training you must include lifeguard or skills sheet to use. Must come together.
- 2015 cards will not be issued – please use Deck Pass to print the 2015 card.
- 2016 cards will only be issued if you have everything up-to-date – many have registered for 2016 – but Athlete Protection expires in 2015 – when that is done – you will get a new card.
- Officials will NOT receive 2016 cards – you must print your cards for OTS.
- Athlete Protection Training – new renewal course – much better than doing same class again.
- Registrations are coming in. Please be clear on what you are sending in – number of athletes, etc. We use this to double check numbers.
- **Huge reminder – if you check off change – it does not register your swimmers – it only changes them. You must check renew or new to register your swimmers.**
- **Please be sure all of your club information is correct – emails are important!!!!**

c. **Welcome to new clubs for 2016:**

- Freedom Aquatics – FREE
- Lion Swim Academy – LSA
- Queens Aquatic Club – QNS
- Southern Westchester Aquatic Group – SWAG
- Bronx Works Blue Waves – BWW
- There are also several new clubs awaiting approval and finalizing paperwork. Please welcome these clubs and help them any way you can.
- New Clubs and clubs needing **Club Leadership and Business Management 201** – we are working with USA Swimming to get this arranged in our area – but please be aware that you will need to register for your second year – take as soon as possible – check USA Swimming for upcoming courses. There is course in New Jersey next weekend.

d. **Club Portals**

- Once again – the office gets many questions that you can answer 24/7 on your club portal – everyone was sent a club portal password. Please use this great tool for all of your database questions – it is live and up-to-date!

e. **Sanctions**

- Most teams have been very good with their sanctions – please be sure you are submitting your sanction application with your meet announcement in a timely manner.
- We are charging \$25 per session for all meets (Open, Invitationals, Approved, Distance, Time Trials)
- Meets should be posted 60 days prior to the meet date.

f. **Meet Recons**

- As stated at the May meeting – **it is the responsibility of the club to only enter registered swimmers in a meet.** We know meets fill up fast and you send you entries in, but this is not an excuse to submit any swimmer that has not been registered. You have access to your club portal 24/7 to see if an athlete is registered. Meet directors have been instructed to remove any unregistered athlete from the meet.
- There is a \$100 fine if you swim an unregistered swimmer in a meet – both the host club and the athletes club receive the fine. If this occurs – the times will not be uploaded into the SWIMS database. There will be no grace period.
- Please pay attention to any emails from the office with regards to recons – they are important and tell you what needs to be fixed. This also applies to fixing names in your database – middle initials, birthdates etc. Once you fix – you must notify any meet director that the athlete’s information has

changed. We do have a policy that can fine you if the same athlete appears more than once on a recon – keep that in mind!!

- g. **The 2015 USA Swimming convention is next week** – will send any other important information out as we get it. Have a great 2015-2016 Swimming Year!

6: ADMINISTRATIVE VICE CHAIR: Denise Byrne

- a. Updated procedure and criteria for Administrative Officials, meet Directors and Administrative Officials. This can be found on the Meet Directors/Admin Officials Link.
- b. Administrative Officials/Meet Directors Clinics are going on. We did one in July, one in August and another is scheduled for September 22nd. There will be one at Lehman in October. All are posted on the Metro website.
- c. All Meet Directors and Admin Officials must first register as non-athlete and check Officials box once you have met all the criteria (Clinic, APT, Background Check, Online test)
- d. Meet surcharges – please send all paperwork (including the Meet Referee's OTS Report with times and payment) within 30 days of meet. Meet Referees will be instructed on how to use OTS properly and comply. Should submit to the MD with 14 days of the meet so that they can include it in the Post Meet report.
- e. Timelines – please be aware that the 4 hour rule does exist and will continue to be implemented.
- f. Denise hopes to have the information for the Club Excellence program posted on the website by middle to end of October.

7: AGE GROUPS: Andy Copley and Jonah Montgomery

- a. **Summer Zone Meet 2015** — Richmond, VA –
 - The 2015 Eastern Zone Meet was a major success on many levels. In the pool, Metro's athletes not only performed well, securing a 3rd place finish overall, but they turned the event into a home meet with a huge show of spirit and support for one another. We received compliments from the officials of the Eastern Zone on our athlete's behavior and team spirit, noting that we set an example for other LSC's to follow.
 - Despite coming off a long run of meets spanning from the beginning of July, our swimmers very often found last gasps of strength to record personal bests, individual team records and medal-winning finishes.
 - We have to give special mention to our coaching staff. They were professional at all times and continually put the needs of the athletes in front of their own for the better of the team. They were an excellent group that made the trip fun and rewarding.
 - The chaperones were a huge help, as usual, although problems did arise between two of them who had strongly conflicting personalities. By the end of the second day we were able to sort out their differences and find a way to use their positive qualities to our advantage. For future trips, we believe it would be prudent to have a screening process of all chaperones.
 - The Richmond Marriott was grossly overbooked and made a number of mistakes with our rooms. In three cases, they had booked three adult chaperones together in a single room with one bed. It took them a couple of nights to secure us the proper space that we had asked for but eventually they got it right. There were many hotels in the area and if possible, we may want to look at some others in the Richmond area that could offer us the same services or better.
 - Food for the 11-12's between prelims and finals was a tricky issue that we believe needs to be discussed and more appropriately budgeted. We were able to feed them every day before the finals session and did so at a much better cost than other LSC's. Each day we ended up spending approximately \$150 on their meal, which threw off our numbers significantly when all was told.
 - Our bus drivers were excellent. According to those coaches who had been on a number of trips, they were the best drivers we had had in years. They accommodated our every need without hesitation and made our lives very easy.

- We also would like to thank Edgar Perez who came down to help us get on our feet on day one and make sure everything was running smoothly. Although it was our first time around the block, and many situations arising were new to us, we felt we were able to handle those very well and things continued to run smoothly.
- Any major incidents were reported to Mary Fleckenstein and John McIlhargy (Mac thanked Andrew and Jonah for the great job they did at Zones).

b. Suggestions for the Future: (some may already be in place)

- Cell phone and computer use policy for athletes.
- Social Media policy for swimmers (may already be one in place?)
- Conduct agreement form for all volunteers and coaches to sign regarding Metro rules for the trip which includes Safe Sport guidelines.
- All volunteer applications should be screened. A simple call to the Head Coach of the program should be enough. Recruitment of volunteers should be done if necessary.

8: COACHES REPRESENTATIVE: Amine Boubsis

- Not much to report at this time
- Report will be online after Convention

9: TECHNICAL PLANNING: David Ellinghaus

- Technical Planning had a meeting in August. Updated time standards and updated alignment will be available this coming week on the Metro website.
- Long discussion about short course JO's at TP Meeting – especially about how crowded the deck is during the meet. After consulting with Age Group Chairs, we have the following motion: “to introduce reasonable time standards for relays at JO's as well as require that each relay be made of at least 2 athletes entered in individual events”. The reason why we are proposing this change is that we received reports from the host team that there were hundreds of “relay-only swimmers” entered in the meet. We must relieve the pressure on the deck. Motion was seconded. Vote by acclamation – all in favor - **Motion carries.**
- For LCM Junior Olympics, we will be working with the host team and Age Group to review the order of events, and maybe put a limitation to the number of heats in some events, particularly for the 11-12 400 IM.

10: NATIONAL TIMES VERIFICATION / TOP 10/SECRETARY: Monique Grayson

- The SAA (Scholastic All America) Team for 2015** was announced earlier in September. It was another incredible year for our scholar athletes and we are very proud of them. There were 510 SAA Finalists for the Eastern Zone!
- The National Age Group Top 10** lists are final and the certificates for the LSCs are at the printer and due back to HQ on the 18th. These certificates will be shipped to Metro the week of the 21st of September!
- Observed Meets** for 2015-16 – Remember that all Requests for High School and College Observation Championship Meets are due a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the meet! Form “B” for High School – Form “A” for College meets - The sooner you sent those to me ... the better – Section 1 and Section 8 are already in!
- Swimmers Registrations** must be sent to Mary before any new swimmers can participate in a meet!!! Do not wait or delay the process or you will be fined \$100 per un-registered swimmer.

11: DISABILITY: Denise Byrne

- Lots of information is coming out about swimmers with hearing disabilities. Denise will have something posted on the website after Convention.

12: SENIOR CHAIR: John Collins and Dave Ferris

- Review of new rules for Senior Mets:**

- As voted on at the May 2015 HOD, the 2016 Senior Mets Winter Championships (2016 is an Olympic Year) will have Short Course Yards Prelims and Long Course Meter Finals.
- The distance Olympic events will be run long course.
- The scoring at Senior Mets will change to 4 (four) heats scoring, with the 3rd & 4th heat (2 Bonus Heats) to be for 18&under only.

b. **Awards -**

- **USA Swimming National Team 2015- 16**
Josh Schneider, Jimmy Feigen and David Plummer - NYAC
Zane Grothe, Cody Miller and Lindsay Vrooman - BADGER
- **USA Swimming National Junior Team 2015 - 16**
Margaret Aroesty - LIAC

13: OPEN WATER: Colleen Driscoll and Rob Ripp

a. **We had two Open Water meets this year:**

- Excel Open Water Race at Huntington/Cold Spring Harbor – 297 registered for this OW Meet
- Fire Island Open Water Race

- b. Mac congratulated Rob & Colleen for the great job they do for Metro Swimming. Metro wants to promote OW much more.
- c. Questions about the schedule of OW meets at end of June and in early July. Hard to attend for swimmers during the LCM season. Hard to schedule those at another time during the summer.
- d. The 2016 Fire Island race will be July 9th, 2016

14: DIVERSITY: John Yearwood

- a. **Joshua Bryant** (NBS) and **Alice Dauchez** (AGUA) attended the Eastern Zone Diversity Select Camp this year. The camp was held June 25-28 at the University of Maryland, College Park. The next Camp in the Eastern Zone will be in 2017
- b. John was approached by a swimmer about a charitable program that will gather and donate swimming equipment to athletes in need in the Metro area (goggles, caps, fins, paddles, buoys, kickboards, towels, snorkels, monofins, etc.). Maybe set up collection boxes at swim meets by the admissions desks. Information will be posted on the website.
- c. John attended the “**Diversity in Aquatics Convention**” August 21-23, 2015 in Lake Worth, Florida. Leaders from various aquatic agencies (USA-Swimming, USA Rowing, USA Triathlon, Scuba Diving) were there to share information on their various initiatives within their organizations. More information will be posted on the metro website.

15: SAFETY CHAIR: Edgar Perez

Edgar was at a wedding and unable to attend the HOD meeting

16: SAFE SPORT: Brian Hansbury

- a. New push for US Swimming and Safe Sport is the more proactive approach of safe sport to US Swim members, education and forward movement will be the theme.
- b. The emergence of transgender and transitioning athlete's is new and US swimming is approaching it with positive attitude and welcoming of the changes to the sports.
- c. The news has reported numerous cases in college swimming of these athletes, first reported was a swimmer at Harvard that was later rectified to Sarah Lawrence being the school to have an athlete that was transitioning between female to male and competing for both teams male and female while in college

17: OFFICIALS CHAIR: Mark Amodio

- a. We are down to about 160 certified officials in Metro. This is going in the wrong direction if we want to get to LEAP 2 as we would then need over 400 certified officials! Need to recruit Officials as this is an important

step for Metropolitan swimming.

- b. The link to the Officials Page on our website is active. More information pertaining to Officials, including steps on how to become an official will be posted there soon.
- c. Denise Byrne and Mark have been working on and re-writing the criteria and process needed to become Meet Directors and Administrative Officials. Reminder to all AO that they are Administrators (on the “dry” side of the meet)
- d. Fourteen (14) Officials advanced to National Certification (first step N2) at the 2015 Summer Senior Mets. This was made possible through our “in house” evaluators! Many thanks to Steven Kessler, Phil Paspalas and Ernesto Martinez.

18: TREASURER/FINANCE: George Rhein / John Yearwood

- a. Reports were submitted and were available at the meeting:
- b. Metropolitan Swimming Profit and Loss - September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015
- c. Metropolitan Swimming Profit and Loss vs. Budget and Prior Year
- d. Metropolitan Swimming Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2015
- e. Proposed Budget for 2016-2019 as well as Actuals from May 15, 2011 to August 31, 2015
- f. A motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made, seconded and approved by all.
- g. Discussion/review of the quadrennial Budget - A motion to accept the Budget was made, seconded and approved by all. Budget was approved – **Motion carries**

19: ATHLETES’ REPRESENTATIVES: Michael Zuppone and Emily Sullivan

- a. Unfortunately the USA-S Convention is late this year so Michael & Emily could not present their report to the swimmers in attendance. Michael will make sure that they receive the report within the next month. It is very important for the athletes to know what’s going on with USA Swimming!
- b. Michael and Emily split the athletes in two groups, made cheers and played Trivia! Swimmers with the right answers received a “prize”!
- c. Emily spoke about “Leadership” – even if older swimmers don’t realize it, many younger swimmers are looking up to them!
- d. Athletes can reach to Emily and Michael if they have any questions or concerns!
- e. Mia Belovsky of Condors talked about her program “Kaps 4 Kids” – it is a charitable program that will gather and donate swimming equipment to athletes in need in the Metro area. Equipment such as goggles, caps, fins, paddles, buoys, kickboards, towels, snorkels, monofins, etc. Teams can set up collection boxes at every swim meet by the admissions desks; also collect unclaimed items from the lost and found. Swimmers can help by dropping off and picking up collection boxes to the swim meets they attend. Also spread the word to family members and friends. Mia want to start this program that helps kids develop their enthusiasm and commitment for the sport of swimming, and bring members of the swimming community closer together by achieving this common goal. Contact Mia at miabelovsky@gmail.com

20: OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time

21: NEW BUSINESS:

- a. John McIlhargy - We have been having a trend toward being an LSC that is mostly driven by our Invitational meets. Mac has received emails from a few clubs about the lack of Open events. Mac has a meeting scheduled with USA Swimming at Convention about this issue to look at ways to encourage and increase the number of Open events. Mac will report on this subject in the Metro Moments Newsletter after Convention.
- b. Bob Vializ made a motion to restore the ability to write “All Metro Teams are invited” on the Invitational meets information instead of actually writing the name of each Metro team! The motion was seconded.

Discussion followed on why we must list each invited team on the meet information. It is actually written in the P&P Manual (an “Invitational” meet is opened only to those USA Swimming teams that have been invited by the host team. The teams that are invited shall be named in the meet information for the meet to be listed on the Metro website). Question as to what happens each time Metro has a New Team – will the meet information need to be corrected to add those teams? But by listing “All Metro Teams” then it would include all Metro Teams, including the new ones! P&P Manual needs to be revised. More discussion followed on this subject! Recap of original motion: To allow the host team to write the words “All Metro Teams” on the meet information instead of listing them all. Vote followed – Majority in favor – **Motion carries**.

- c. Another concern that mentioned was that teams that do not “like” another team will not add that team’s name on the list of invitees! Questions were asked about the 20% surcharge to Metro for Invitationals but as of now, the surcharge from host team entries are not being charged, whether it is an open meet or an invitational (this will be answered after Convention). We need to support our Open meets as well.
- d. Another problem we are facing is that meets are closing too fast, especially during the long course season. Metro really does not have enough LCM meets to cater to all of our LSC swimmers, even though we have one of the highest numbers of sanctioned meets in the Country but we still struggle! We still need more clubs to run more meets!
- e. Metro wants to help clubs that want to host meets (especially the small clubs) so please contact Metro rights away! We will help find pool times! The LSC deserves more events so cater to our large membership!
- f. The Eastern States Coaches Clinic is being held at the Crown Plaza in Cherry Hill, NJ October 10-11, 2015.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved by all. Meeting adjourned at 11:44 am.

Respectfully submitted

Monique Grayson, Secretary
September 30, 2015