

Senior Athlete Rep Convention Report

- This year was an election year for many of the positions on the zone and National level; the athletes were able to learn how the candidates presented themselves and how the voting process was carried through.
- Kristen and I both attended the 'early show for new delegates', which basically gave us an overview of the USA Swimming convention, positions, and issues for which we would discuss.
- At our Athlete meetings we met the various members of the AEC (Athletes' Executive Chair) Board, and talked about current issues facing athletes today including;
 - 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 certain caps with advertisers on them.
 - What one's membership of USA swimming truly means, and whether or not they may be used for marketing purposes in the hopes of gaining recognition for the sport.
 - Prize money and how it may affect one's eligibility to compete in college if they also compete on a National/International level.
 - Diversity and how it is represented in the world of swimming, how we could possibly improve the fact that less than 20% of swimmers are minorities, etc.
- We also talked about committees and the functions of the 'athletes at large' because USA Swimming mandates that 20% of all votes must be by athletes, and because normally many athlete representatives cannot be present at convention, or there are still more athletes needed, swimmers can apply to be on a committee that focuses on education, technical planning, rules and regulations, or safety, and many more. In this way athletes can become more involved in their sport on a national level.
- Perhaps the biggest part of convention that was emphasized by the AEC was athlete participation in everything from discussions to elections. Everyone was encouraged to become familiar with the process even if they did not have a vote (In the case of most junior athlete reps.), and we spent the majority of our time getting to know the new candidates running for the AEC board positions.
- Hopefully, we can take this information back to the athletes of Metro, and encourage more people to become familiar with the voting and election process of our own athlete reps, and perhaps get more candidates and even more people to vote in the future.