

## Convention 2007 Anaheim, CA Bea's Notes

**Day 1** – Sept. 25 Travel via LIRR, AirTrain and JetBlue Commences at 03:30 EDT and ends with arrival at Hyatt Hotel at 12:20 PST. Check-in, Register with Convention and get credential, catch up with far flung friends, discover Francis Klier in lobby and learn she doesn't have a roommate – so we move her to my room = money saved for both LSCs.

Check e-mails, go over OW proposed legislation with Dale Petranec and later, Sid Cassidy. Learn that they have been updated and will make more sense. Supper with Dale at Outback, then more discussions on legislation etc. in lobby. To bed 'early' to try to catch up.

**Day 2** – Sept. 26 Find out at 07:30 that there WAS a workout this AM. Oh well. Sit in on BoD meeting for a bit, check e-mails & deal with three that can't wait. Great Jane Stanton & get caught up on how she and the family are doing, plenty of challenges there – medical, financial, emotional, etc. Learn from HI delegates that Char's daughter was due for surgery on Monday.

Report Disability Records at awards Task Force meeting, dash to New SWIMS Projects – mostly the NCAA database for Div. I. On to Rules & Regs. & comment on a couple of the revised OW proposals. After debate, item on having a health authority certify the water in a venue as safe, is withdrawn by Sid. Rest of items remain as presented. Discover I missed Top 16 and NTV Workshop. Leave 'stuff' in room and attend USAS Reception. Accomplish lots of groundwork re Masters OW, The Disability Records switch, getting copies of report made for Disability Business meeting and Times & Recognition meeting.

**Day 3** – Sept. 27 Begin with 05:15 bus to workout at the Janet Evans Pool Complex, 50M "L" with the bottom leg being 33.5 meters and includes the diving well and the width of the rest of the long leg being 25 yards. Back in time for 'coffee and bagel' with chit chat. Have conference with Pat Lunsford re the Disability Records situation, he requests I consider serving on a task force to come up with plans/ideas for transition and the future, especially for S14 & S15. [Wouldn't think of abandoning the athletes.] Had to miss Officials' workshop, get to 09:00 Disability Business meeting, contribute some information and history. Attend Scholastic All America Task force, which becomes a dilly with coaches vehement about the inequity because Sectional Qualifying Times differ and the meets are sometimes open and sometimes closed. Various proposals made, and it is explained that the Board sets the criteria, so requests/suggestions should go to them. Committee will pass ideas on as well.

Quick bite with Pat Risser while discussing her contact with a great site for an OW Camp in CA. Back in time for 1:00 Disability Workshop. Most of the audience are already involved as coaches, officials or as LSC Coordinators. Even so, there is a good exchange between the panel of 2 coaches, 2 Athlete Reps and an Official with the audience. Have 15 minutes to get to Time & Recognition Business meeting Have a lot to cover with: *Scholastic AA* reporting on its meeting earlier and suggestions coming from there to the committee for forwarding to the BoD. *SWIMS* enhancements wish list was generated that resulted in 4 or 5 items and progress is going forward even a little faster than hoped – ability to generate LSC records listing by the categories they choose. The ability to produce/exchange data by SDIF. Coming up with "Recon 2" ability to search meets with "No Faster Than" qualifying times. OME for local meets. Recognize and capture the timing level that pertained to a meet. *NAG Records* reported 20 LC records and 12 Yard records; feels maybe 2 week deadline for application should be extended – advised not to go too far and step up info dissemination; so few ALL STAR applications come in, question whether to continue. Agreed that all should be by application, not that the coordinator have to research. *Record Application Task Force* provided samples of various forms and suggestions were received for changes, looking good so far. *Top 16* is now to be Top 10 and begin with age ten, ascending by individual years. *Disability Records* – Suzanne Heath announced that the USOC has directed that USPC will now maintain record for classes 1 through 13 in all three courses and events, as we have developed over time. It was voted to ask the Disability Committee if they would like us to continue to maintain S14. S15 has just established and NGB and seems interested in having us either continue or at least be an information resource.

OLD BUS. – Through May of '08, High School times that are accepted into SWIMS will be listed as HS-UN. In some states, an athlete can be penalized for participating during the HS season in 'outside' competition. OME usage last year – 207 meets. Legislation – reminder to support the change from top 16 to 10. NCAA Database – will be for Div 1 swims only for now, providing full team roster database as well as repository for all times. This is a service for Div I to use, as in the past, *only observed swims* will be able to be entered into the USA SWIMS database. YMCA joint partnership – a meeting with Y delegates has moved forward the implementation of mutual training requirements, clinic contents, etc. now that the Y is using USA Swimming Rules.

NEW BUS> - Added the Athlete Reimbursement Coordinator to T & R from Awards. Discussed times achieved in foreign meets, also times done by dual citizen in a foreign country. Reviewed committee term limits – Chair & Athletes are 1 year, some first year members will expire, remainder will have a second, third or fourth year to stagger membership. If you're up, remember to reapply in order to continue. Will set firm date for next phone conference and investigate possible need/scheduling workshop(s). The meeting ended with a charge to be thinking of what our goals are – near and long term.

Learned Metro won bid to host USMS 10k in 2009! Attended Metro dinner where good camaraderie abounded.

Rounded out day with the first session of the Eastern Zone meeting – included reports on the LC Zone meets, officials mentoring and evaluation program and reports from the two EZ Board Members ranging from Golden Goggles to athlete retention.

Confer on more OW and Disability matters. Happy to go to bed at 10:30

**Day 4** – Sept. 28 Begin with workout bus, have so many we have coaches sitting on floor in the aisle. Workout goes well, but as we end, word comes that the driver will only allow as many as there are seats. Quick dash to Coach Bill of the local Masters team and he arranges for two of his swimmers and himself to carpool our overage back to the hotel. God Bless Masters! Have a more leisurely breakfast and accomplish more conferring.

Give report at program Operations meeting and note the current state of flux for Disability Records vis-à-vis USPC supplanting USA Swimming.

Sit in on the "Background Screening Process" and they do a good job of simplifying just what the process is and why it's in place, (better late than never.)

Have lunch with Marcia Cleveland to go over Masters Open Water officiating requirements and course monitoring. She later requests we withdraw our out-of-area bid to host the 09 10K so the L.D. Committee can pressure IN area folks to bid. Withdrew then and there with understanding we would be the fallback if no other bidder came forward.

Have another quick chat with Pat Lunsford about Disability Records, then on to IRC mtg.

Next to EZ meeting, part 2. Haley Smith gave her Athlete Rep report; Jamy Pfister gave the EZ Officials report on progress of upgrading and evaluations in the zone as well as selection for the various championships; it was announced that of 1,287 Scholastic All Americans, Eastern Zone was second with 342 – we need to make swimmers and coaches more aware of the program.

Candidates for National office had an opportunity to speak briefly, then the elections were held: for Non-Coach Board member JoAnne Faucett, AD; for Technical Planning, Pete Barry, AM won; for Coach member of the Age Group Development Committee, Ward Foley, PV won.

Many members gave reports from National Committees on which they serve. There will be many sources for their info in greater detail. Meanwhile, Terry Randolph requested our support for R-9 and Arvidas gave an overview of the other legislative proposals included in the 50 page packet we'll receive this evening before the opening session of the House of Delegates meeting.

The May EZ meeting will be hosted by VA in Reston – National Bd dates in doubt so not sure whether it will be Mother's Day weekend or before.

It was voted to have the EZ banners held by the Secretary/Treasurer rather than staying with the LSC that wins. Their names and years will be added and the banners will be displayed at subsequent meetings and meets.

Thank you gifts were given to retiring Board member, Pete Gannon and Technical Planning Chair, John Hirschman.

The Opening Session of the HoD was held in the evening and has been past practice, many of the awards, presentations to past Board Members and the Life Memberships were given out. Perhaps most notable was the Disability Swimmer of the Year Award to Jessica Long. This 16 year old from Baltimore had also stunned the sports world by copping the Sullivan Award!

After adjournment, it was time to settle in with the latest Legislation Proposals to be prepared for the next morning.

**Day 5** – Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> final bus to workout. We cut the session a little short to assure that the athletes get back in time to get their credentials and ballots for voting. All must seek out their own breakfasts, the vendors are finished.

HoD meeting began with the memorial presentation of names of those who died since the previous year, usually a photograph is projected and also a rose is placed in a vase to remain until after the Annual USAS Banquet. Next, the Diversity Award was presented, to the Philadelphia Department of Recreation. Reports of the data on Membership and Credentials were given. The annual election was held, with uncontested positions acclaimed and ballots for the other the others were collected.

While tabulation took place, Chuck Wielgus gave his State of the Sport address. Carol Zaleski gave an overview and report on the USSIC. Because of the rebates received over the years, they could be considered our biggest sponsor. Peter Carney presented the proposed Budget with comments and answered questions, after which it was adopted as presented.

The Chair was then assumed by Bruce Stratton of the Rules and Regulations Committee and the legislation was considered at great length. Although many items were accepted on omnibus votes, there were many that were considered and amended before either acceptance, (most), or defeat. We were scheduled to break for lunch at 12:00 – when it got to be about 12:30, the Chair asked if we wanted to stop or press on and finish – the vote was to continue.

After the Legislative portion, it was asked if any Vice Presidents had reports requiring action and the response was "No." There was no Old Business. The meeting adjourned.

There was time after a quick lunch to relax and get most packing done to be prepared for our early morning departure.

The Banquet went very well with Masters stealing the show as usual. The Awards presentations were nicely done and the meal was OK.

**DAY 6** – Our van was prompt to take us to the airport in time for our 7:00 AM (PST) flight back to NY. Flight is uneventful and the connections to Airtrain and LIRR work smoothly. I am at home by 5:30 PM EST thinking about what it took folks in the 1850s just to get to Manhattan from Huntington by packet boat!

Respectfully submitted,

Bea Hartigan