

Connecticut Swimming

House of Delegates Minutes October 1, 2011 The Graduate Club, New Haven, Ct

Present Board Members: Hilary Berger, Ed Doernberger, Jeff Gray, Todd Gordon, Chris Hug, Cooper Kearns, Lexi Koukos, King Lee, Ty Seymour, Judy Snow, John Spadafina, Kaeley Steinnagel, Bonnie Strittmatter, Mary Wescott

Not Present: Peter Boucher, Ed Heath, Mike Huffman, Ed Becker (running Officials Clinic).

Also Present: Nan Cooper

Club Delegates Present: John McCann (AJSC), Christine Pelham(CAC), Robin Gibbons, Erick Stritzel (CAT), George Bradner (CCAT), Dan Mascolo (CDOG), Tak Takabayashi and Mark Kinne (GLAS), Tim Wise (Omni Swim Club), Hank Jensen and Jason Cochran (PSDY), Bob Shearer (RAC), Rick Lewis (SHKS), Dave Reilly (WAC), Rob Bouchey and Tom Horan (WCYM), Ellen Johnston (WRAT), Randy Erlenbach (WYW), Christina Teuscher (Yale), Omar Cruz (Zeus).

Approval of the Agenda – motion made and approved to amend agenda, adding two items:

1. How to get more representation at the House of Delegates meeting
2. Creating a Nominating Committee

Approval of the Minutes – a motion to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2011 House of Delegates Meeting was unanimously approved.

Welcome and Announcements and Chairman's Report: Chris Hug

Financially: CSI is financially very healthy based on our annual audit. We are working to continually improve our processes.

Performance: We are proud of our accomplishments and we are trying to improve the quality of our programs and services (making note of the hugely successful official's clinic be offered concurrently). We currently have 17 Olympic Trial qualifiers (and are likely to add to that number) in addition to many other excellent swims by our athletes at other meets since the championships. We are currently reviewing all of the meets we offer and re-evaluating our time standards.

Clubs: New clubs are being added to CSI. We currently have 61 clubs, 634 coaches and non-athlete members, 5548 year round athletes and 238 seasonal athletes.

USA Swimming: USA Swimming has adopted and is implementing anti-bullying legislation including Athlete Protection and Sexual Harassment Prevention (where all non-athlete members will be required to take an online course and test). In addition there are other bylaw revisions which will be adopted at the May *House of Delegates Meeting*

which among other items includes significant changes to open water swimming and associated safety issues.

Board of Directors: Chris Hug acknowledges the valued service and dedication of the Board of Directors and has them introduce themselves.

Reports of Officers:

Administrative Vice-Chair: Rick Lewis – reports that they have been updating equipment. The server has been redone as well as the CSI website. Ginger McCurdy is the new office person and tremendously valued. With regard to the banquet, Rick wants to offer more recognition to our accomplished athletes by highlighting them publically and will be making adjustments to the banquet to improve the event.

Treasurer – Mary Wescott – reports that our finances are in very good health and reminds group our funds are constituted by the membership fees and surcharges since Age Groups and Senior Championships break even.

Todd Gordon Finance Vice Chair – Todd Gordon reports that he will be presenting a portfolio and investment strategy for our reserve funds that pays a higher yield. He will be proposing stronger controls for authorizing and spending funds.

Age Group Committee Chair – Dave Reilly – announces upcoming meeting on Wednesday at 7:30pm and that they will kick off with old business of whether 15/18 year olds should be in age groups. He reaches out and invites all to attend.

Senior Committee Chair – Bill Ball – not present

Program Development Vice-Chair – Jeff Gray – reminds group that meeting agendas for PD are posted on the CSI website and encourages membership involvement. Draft minutes are posted in advance and members are encouraged to read the material. Jeff refers to the packet where all accomplishments are highlighted. He has asked Bill Ball to review coach travel assistance and swimmer of the year. Bill wants the Senior Time Standards to be reviewed even though they have published. Regarding Zones, the committee has responded to concerns by publishing all eligibility criteria and re-confirmed all important information on CSI Website. They are currently looking at the appeals process, eligibility criteria and plan to have revised Zone policy up by November. The revised time standards will be posted as soon as possible.

Program Operations Vice-Chair – Tak Takabayashi – is focusing on the meet bidding process and the awarding of meets with special consideration to the monitoring of the meet host to insure that they are running the type of meet they are supposed to. He wants to even out the schedule to avoid “10 meets on one weekend and none on the others”. Tak wants to look at the Regional meet bidding process and will work on Program Development Committee on this.

Technical Planning Committee Chair – Kaeley Steinnagel – Announces upcoming meeting on October 19th and encourages members to join the call. They are going to plan for the future and make a 5 year plan to better address the needs of swimmers, and address the needs of the Senior Swimming. She intends to focus on our actual growing numbers especially with regards to Long Course season and Connecticut’s venues. They will discuss Long Course Championships and improve things. She plans to make change by taking baby steps and requests the trust of the membership since less than 15% of the membership is in attendance at this meeting.

Coaches Representatives – John Spadafina/Jim Santiago – nothing added

Athlete Representatives – Lexi Koukos/Molly Condron/Ty Seymour/Kaz Takabayashi
Nothing added

Safety Committee Chair – Ed Heath - Not Present

Officials Committee Chair – Ed Becker – Officials will be wearing a new credential at meets at all championship meets. He announces that we will be inviting people to shadow an official for a session without having to be a non athlete member of USA swimming or pay any fee. This will be a non-threatening and inviting way for individuals to decide whether they want to pursue the training to be an official.

Registration/ Membership Coordinator – Judy Snow – explains the 2 different ways to register for the newly required Athlete Protection Test, where Level 1 is for non athletes and Level 2 is for coaches and officials.

Reports of Committees and Coordinators: nothing added.

New Business

Improving Attendance at the House of Delegates Meeting:

An active discussion took place raising many points of view. In response to many comments made (listed below) Chris Hug asserts that our Board of Directors is not run as a democracy but rather a republic. He reminds those attending that all proposals and ideas for change to CSI need to be presented to CSI Committees/Board where we may be sure that all ideas are properly vetted. Jeff points out that Program Development is the protector of the quality of all aspects of all proposals regarding programming and that there is a healthy amount of scrutiny involved. Program Development's job is to support and decline proposals. The problem is that a well thought out plans go out to the membership after being approved by Program Development and get derailed by people who have inaccurate facts and don't have the information they need to make an informed choice. Jeff Gray wants input and encourages more people to be involved by becoming informed and reminds group that all information is posted on the CSI website in a timely manner. He reminds the group that many many people have worked hard on the efficacy and details for a proposal to be approved. Chris reminds the group that the Board of Directors does not prevent changes from going through regardless of a board member's personal opinion. He wants a Board and all committees of the Board to make hard decisions to impact change and to be strong within the boundaries of CSI bylaws (example of changing Senior Champs finals). Rick Lewis as Administrative Chair may wish to take a look at the make up of the structure of House of Delegates representation to see if changes need to be made.

Several points of view which were raised by different coaches and individuals which included:

- Want the House of Delegates to hear proposals which may bring more people to the meeting
- Don't feel they are getting the information they want or need to know about what is going on in LSC
- A suggestion is made for more in-person meetings rather than phone meetings

- Parents want to be informed and believe Coaches should inform parents on team of what comes from the House of Delegates meeting
- Point made about the discrepancies of part-time and full-time coaches and whether this has impact on attendance
- A comment is made that there is a great deal of apathy

Creating a Nominating Committee:

The following nominating committee was unanimously approved.

Dave Heller, UN

Hank Jansen, PSDY

Omar Cruz, ZEUS

Bob Shearer, RAC

George Bradner, CCAT

Robin Gibbons, CAT

Ty Seymour, CAT

Adjournment: Meeting is adjourned at 12:30 pm