

**Report from the Age-Group Chair**  
**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 VSI Meeting of the Board of Directors**

I have contacted each member of the AG Committee, and have contacted candidates for outgoing members of the committee. I would still like to have more athlete and non-coach members on the committee. All but one of the previous non-coach committee members had indicated that they are not interested in continuing. The committee, thus far, consists of (new members in bold):

Mark Bennett (chair), SE: Brian Kupferer, Harold Baker, SW: **Lisa Liston**, Jessica Simons, C: David Schreck, **Jamie Greenwood**, N: **Robert Gecan**, Ex-Officio (at large?): James Wolfle.

I have been in contact with the Zone Team Manager, Caycee Buscaglia, regarding planning for the EZ Age-Group meet for Spring 2008 in Buffalo, NY. She has taken the initiative to reserve 55 rooms at the Adam's Mark hotel and shore up the contract with Martz.

We are currently working together in looking at the EZ Age-Group meet for Summer 2008 in Montgomery County, MD. VSI had high participation in the last year's summer meet, and we anticipate the closer venue to yield an even higher number this year. We received a bid from Kast-a-way Swimwear at the USAS Convention for Zone Team apparel. In talking with Caycee, she believes that problems with receiving orders have been resolved and would like to stay with our current arrangement.

I attended the USAS Convention this past weekend (September 27-29, 2007):

AG Committee Business Meeting:

A request to add the 50 fly, 50 back, and 50 breast to the recommended 3 and 4 day meet schedule for LSC Senior Championship meets was given a verdict of "no recommendation" from the National AG Development Committee. The committee reminded the attendees that each LSC has the power to add the 50s to their event sequence, if they desire.

The new basis for AG recognition to replace the Top-16 times was explained to attendees. Terry Randolph has agreed to explain this method at the next VSI BOD meeting.

USA Swimming has been working overtime to put together on-line accessible report builders to help with tracking LSC and individual club trends. Current reports can be found on the USA Swimming site by going to the "Times/Time Standards" page then going to the "Stats" page.

Pannell Discussion "From Splash to Gold"

AG and Developmental coaches from 5 of the largest and most successful club teams in the nation gave insight and answered questions on topics such as: club structure, educating assistant coaches, fundraising ideas, making meets fun, communicating with parents, and swimmer progressions.

**Attended the Sports Science and Technology meeting regarding a close analysis of backstroke.**

Attended all Eastern Zone meetings and USA Swimming HOD meetings.

AG Chairs Workshop

USA Swimming hopes to see a regionalized IMX Championship meet by Fall of 2009.

- Meets would be divided by zone. Each zone could determine the exact date of the meet.
- Only IMX events would be contested in single age group.
- They are hoping for 1000 swimmers per meet, with 100 athletes from each gender of the following age groups: 12-13-14-15-16. Invitations would be based on swimmer's highest IMX score from the previous season.
- The goal is to continue to develop the complete AG athlete and to steer AG swimmers (and coaches) away from early specialization
- The incentives for clubs to participate could range from possibly adding to Club Excellence or Club Development points, qualifying for a select camp based on meet points, or bringing in a National team member to host a motivational speech.

I worked with Bill Hasty from Hasty Awards to finalize medals and ribbons for our SC Championship meets. He has agreed to e-mail me a quote for the cost of the medals for AG Champs, Regional Champs, and District Champs. I did not ask for a quote regarding Summer Awards, pending conversation in the AG Committee meeting on Saturday regarding reformatting the meet.

The NC/VA Age-Group all-star dual meet is still slated for May 3, 2008 at the TAC in Cary, NC. NC is voting on a new AG Chair this coming weekend, so no headway was made in regard to tying up loose ends with meet arrangements and athlete selection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Bennett  
Age Group Chair  
10/4/07