

## Minutes of the VSI House of Delegates Meeting

October 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Recognition of Exceptional Volunteers - David Strider announced that George Homewood and Mary Turner received lifetime USA swimming memberships from VSI. Mary also received the Outstanding Service Award from the Eastern Zone, A special VSI Outstanding service award was presented to Walter Smith for all his contribution to VSI over the years.

The minutes of the April 2011 HOD meeting were submitted for approval. Terry Randolph moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Rustin and passed.

Treasurer - see report on the website.

Age group - Amelia DeCruz introduced herself. She reported that her committee encouraged specialty meets. As there is a reduction in splash fees for 8 and under meets, would VSI be willing to entertain the thought of giving rebates for more specialty localized meets? The cuts format for Age Group Champs has been tweaked. Deck pass was discussed. The committee also discussed a rotational approach for the Age Group Championship meet. The approach to the Swimmer of the Year nominations will be revisited. An email blasts as well as quarterly conference calls will keep the committee up to date. She will develop standard operating procedures for the committee.

Senior - see report on the web site. 1600 athletes nationwide have already qualified for the Olympics. Cuts for LC Juniors and Nationals will be getting faster and faster. There will be an alternating order of events in even/odd years. Summer Nationals and the U.S. Open will only have LC qualifying times. LC Juniors will still have SC cuts.

Zones - Maureen Tolliver reported on LC Zones. VSI finished 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. She encouraged coaches to convince athletes to attend. LC zones 2012 may be held in Richmond at the new PSDN pool.

Budget - The treasurer's report stood as the budget committee report.

Technical Planning - no report

Club Development - Kevin Maloy has resigned as the committee chair. A new coordinator will be appointed in the near future.

Make A Splash - see report on the web site. Virginia is 4<sup>th</sup> in the United States. Please visit the BH-JSL web site for more information.

Diversity - Peter Maloney reported that USA Make A Splash grant requests are coming out in January 2012. There will be a diversity summit in November. 58% of Afro American and 56% of Latino children cannot swim. A federal law will go into effect in March of 2012 that requires pools to install handicapped lifts. The requirement is 1 for pools 25 yards or meters and 2 for 50 meter pools. This information has been sent to all club contacts. A zero entry pool does not criteria. Camps are available and he will do all the paperwork.

Admin - no report

Membership and Registration - see report on web site. ATP needs to be completed by 12/31/11. A background check can be initiated at any time. To date 1674 athletes have been registered for 2012. Effective 09/1/11 teams are required to complete a three pronged screening for any employee that is required to be a member of USA Swimming. 4 individuals from each LSC in the Eastern Zone will attend an Eastern Zones workshop on the tentative dates of 04/20-22/12. Boston is the most likely host. The LSC will be responsible for transportation with USA swimming providing housing and meals. The goal of the workshop is to demonstrate the various tracks of SWIMS (registration, OTS, OME and Deck Pass0 and increase an understanding of how they work together.

Athletes - Travis Kerner reported on SC Senior Champs. They want no awards ceremony and no 2 pools at the same time because there is no warm up/down space. They would like athletes' hospitality. At LC Senior Champs there were too many DQ's. There appeared to be too much focus on one rule. They want to keep the bonus cuts at Senior Champs and they want the 2012 SC Senior Champs to be SC/SC.

Coaches - Coaches endorsed Senior Committee's approval of Parade but no award ceremony for Senior Champs. It was felt that warm up for multiple swims was more important and beneficial to the swimmers than ceremony and that coaches had multiple swimmers to get ready and to talk to about other races during the time that they would be required to hand out awards. They endorsed the Senior Committees recommendation to move LC Senior Champs to the July 26<sup>th</sup> weekend during Olympic years. Endorsed Senior Committees option of swimming the SC Senior Champs meet as yards in prelims and finals LC in Olympic years. They endorsed Technical Planning's recommendation of "targeted developmental" meets getting some relief from LSC meet fees. They endorsed Senior's Open Water

National Meet reimbursement for swimmers that had the junior or National pool Qualifying Times for entry events. Looking into the open water qualifying procedures is another possibility for eligibility for reimbursement. They proposed reimbursement for club coaches for National level meets if the club has and sends swimmers to same meets and said swimmers are eligible for VSI reimbursement, at the same rate as swimmers and officials reimbursement levels. They proposed that Senior champs open up the number of swims each swimmer may swim to the National limit of 3 per day. The Committee is in favor of this even if it means that the bonus swims are disallowed for meet management purposes. They plan to bring forth that the SC Zone meet's qualifying criteria would require a swimmer in the 14 and under divisions be ranked in the VSI top 8 in that event to be eligible. With the number of VSI swimmers now attending the NCSA individual Age Group Meet the pool of swimmers applying to Zones is not as competitive. Coaches did not want to spend the money and send a weakened team if a large number of swimmers from VSI were attending other age group meets instead of Zones. They propose to bring forth that VSI allows other meets that are recognized as National level competition meets for reimbursement. Totals to not exceed current levels, just to allow coach's the opportunity to choose meets that best compliment their athletes training and competition preparation. (ex: Grand Prix in the spring to prepare for mid summer Olympic Trials)

Officials - see report on the web site. Michael Downs thanked the Board for sending him to the Officials" Chair workshop in June. John Squires and Dan Demers will represent VSI at the Officials" workshop in October.

Club Development - It is VSI's goal to complete LEAP level 2 by year's end. There is a monetary incentive to complete this endeavor.

Championship Committee - Pat Donohue will chair this committee. The members of her committee are Bob Rustin, Jessica Simons, Scott Baldwin, Dudley Duncan, Rick Benner, Gordon Hair, Laurie Hynes, Bruce Buscaglia and an as yet unnamed athlete. The goal is to reassess the protocols, finals protocols and awards at Championship level meets. The purpose is how best to preserve the Championship spirit.

Disability - no report

Safety - no report

NTC - Terry reported that the official lists will be out soon and certificates will be sent to the office to be mailed.

Records - no report

Policy and Legislation - Walter reported that VSI still has some housekeeping to do. Mary presented the adopted USA swimming bullying policy.

Webmaster - Michael reported that the web site gets about 1000 visits a day and 3500 during the championship season. See report on the web site.

Highlights from convention - See report on web site. OME can now be used for Region Championship meets under the current format.

Unfinished business - none

New Business - none

Announcements - none

TJ Liston moved to adjourn seconded by Terry Randolph. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Simons - Secretary