



THE CONVENTION COURIER 2008

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Phelps Inspires Local Kids

It was a bit of a coincidence that on the second day of Convention in Atlanta, the most talked about man in swimming was at a local pool. **Michael Phelps** did not come to swim, but rather to inspire 200 youngsters at the Warren Boys and Girls Club.

Phelps spoke about water safety, his Olympic experience and working to achieve his dreams. The stop was one of several for Phelps, who has visited several Boys & Girls Clubs across the nation.

This particular Boys and Girls Club is of note to the USA Swimming Foundation, as one of four clubs that make up "Make a Splash Atlanta," the campaign's pilot program. To date, the program has touched more than 2,000 kids in Atlanta.

Take advantage of the **Outreach Clinic tomorrow**, which will visit the Warren Boys & Girls Club, and see progress in action!

Daily Nostalgia

How many of us still catch ourselves smiling back at Team USA's awe-inspiring performances at the 2008 Olympic Games? The pro-Swimming buzz that grew around water coolers, bus stops, and facebook pages nationwide? **Send your favorite Olympic memory to jolsen@usaswimming.org**

I have to say I think Jason Lezak coming back to get the gold in the Men's relay. That comeback was so improbable and was just amazing to watch.

-Steven T.

Dara Torres coming within .01 of winning her first [individual] gold, but she still took home three silvers in her 40's!

-Martha J.

Guo Jingjing winning a gold in front of the home crowd.

-Sara A.

Thursday's Meeting Schedule

8:00am - 9:50am	Age Group Dev. Committee - Business Meeting LSC Board of Review Workshop Officials Committee/Burning Issues for Officials Times & Recognition Committee - Business Mtg Safety - CPR, First Aid, Safety for Coaches
8:00am - 12:00pm	Steering Committee
9:00am - 10:30am	Disability Swimming Cmte - Business Mtg
10:00am - 12:00pm	Diversity Committee - Business Mtg Registration Workshop - SWIMS Club Coaching for Coaches - A Panel Discussion Rules & Regulations Committee
11:00am - 12:00pm	Scholastic All America Subcommittee
12:00pm - 2:00pm	General Chairs' Luncheon (by invitation only)
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Athletes' Meeting - First Timers
1:00pm - 2:50pm	Registration/Membership Cmte - Business Mtg Tricks, Tips & Traps - Club & LSC Financial Mgt National Board of Review Certification Diversity Workshop
1:00pm - 4:50pm	Olympic Int'l Operations Cmte (OIOC)
2:00pm - 4:00pm	Athletes' Welcome Reception
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Governance Committee - Business Mtg USA Swimming Foundation Workshop
3:00pm - 4:50pm	2009 Budget Meeting Safety Education Committee National Events Workshop LSC Age Group Chairs Workshop - Part 1
4:30pm - 6:30pm	Outreach Clinic (off-site)
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Major Aquatic Facility Directors' Association
5:00pm - 6:50pm	Women In Aquatics Reception
7:00pm - 9:00pm	Eastern Zone Central Zone Southern Zone Western Zone

Featured Events

Outreach Clinic-Offsite Tomorrow!

Enjoy this opportunity to see Make a Splash at work, right here in Atlanta. To catch a van to the Boys & Girls Club, **meet in the lobby at 3:50pm.** Space is limited.



Event Management and Marketing Symposium

will be held Oct. 22-23 in Colorado Springs. The Symposium is for meet hosts, club managers and others. To register or for more info: email jfox@usaswimming.org.

WEDNESDAY'S MEETING SUMMARIES

Board of Directors Meeting

The USA Swimming Board of Directors met on September 23. The major action taken at this meeting was the approval of the 2009 operating budget, which will now be put forward to the House of Delegates on Saturday for their approval. The budget was originally vetted by the Executive Committee back in June, at which time a significant number of cuts and adjustments were made. The budget approved by the Board of Directors on September 23 was the exact same budget as the one modified and approved by the Executive Committee.

Senior Development Committee

The following is a summary of the Senior Development Committee Meeting:

- * Voted to approve time standards for the 2009 World Championship Trials, U.S. Open and Junior Nationals. For the Junior Nationals, time standards will only be offered for long course meters swims. All standards will be available at the House of Delegates meeting and on the USA Swimming website.
- * Bonus events were approved for all U.S. Open and National Championships (that are not Trials Class meets).
- * The Junior Nationals in the summer has been extended to a full 5-day meet (used to be a 4½ day meet). Bonus events for all Junior Nationals will be as follows:
 - No matter how many individual time standards an athlete makes, he/she may enter up to two (2) bonus events.
- * A Senior Zone Championships in each zone has been approved for 2009. Each zone may receive up to \$10,000 for running this competition. The meet will be open to athletes 15 years of age and older and will be held in early August of each year. These meets would be held at the same time as Nationals/U.S. Open or Junior Nationals and would be governed by the zones. The meet would be club-based, so athletes would represent their clubs, not their LSCs. For more information on offering this meet in your zone, please contact a member of the Senior Development Committee.

Open Water Steering Committee

The open water steering committee met today to discuss the 2008 competitions and what needs to be done to improve in the next quad. We will not know until October 2009 if the Marathon swimming event will be part of the 2012 London Olympic Games. One change in the 2009 competition schedule is that the National Championships and the World Championship trials will now be held on June 14, 2009 in Ft. Myers, Fla.

Club Development Committee Meeting

The committee saw an overview of USA Swimming's National membership trends and the new Club membership trends that will be available in a couple of months through each club's portal. This will give clubs a quick place to find and analyze membership information and spot any potential negative trends. The report section will eventually be expanded to include performance data.

There was positive feedback given to the IM Racer program (working title) which will be used as a stepping stone to the IM Xtreme (IMX) program. This program will basically cut in half the distances swimmers compete in from IMX.

A yearly recap was given on participation in the Club Recognition Program. The LSC's with highest participation (at least working on Level 1):

Indiana	30 clubs
Illinois	25 clubs
Southern California	24 clubs
Southeastern	22 clubs
Maryland	19 clubs

There was much discussion on how to promote Club Recognition and the IMX program.

Let's Get Started (on your best convention experience):

This is the orientation meeting for first timers presenting such good information that folks who have been to a few conventions (or more!) still attend. Delegates are given information on parliamentary procedure, meetings & schedules, introductions of those running for office, doing the follow-up of sharing information once they've returned home, and all the ins-and-outs of the USAS Convention.

Make a Splash

This meeting presented an overview of the last year's partnerships and promotional opportunities of the USA Swimming Foundation's national child-focused water safety initiative, Make a Splash. The Aquatic Program Managers from the Metro Atlanta Boys & Girls Clubs did a panel discussion of all their experiences in creating and running the lessons program in our pilot project right here in Atlanta. Also covered were:

- Future major programs
- The Local Partner Program
- Promotional efforts including the Diversity Research Study, Make a Splash in School (and our YMCA partners), water safety day pilots, Hilton Swims to Beijing, the NY Times PLAY advertorial, and the Oakland Undercurrents' efforts in New Orleans.

For more, visit www.makeasplash.org