

CONNECTICUT SWIMMING, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
September 19, 2023
8:00 PM

Call to Order/Roll Call: General Chair, Rick Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:03 pm.

Board Members: Rick Lewis, Jeff Sargent, Dave Heller, Sue Leczka, Joan Lynch, Jason Paige, Rob Riccoban, Kelsey, Seam Yolanda Jahan, Margy Sargent, Ronnie Vaughn, Kathleen and Davide Mendonca, Jeremy Virgil, Samantha Haley, Sean Farrell, Dylan Lee, Sarah Basile, Greg Pinchbeck, Kaeley Steinnagel

Absent Board Members: Lauren Lazar, Nick Cavaturo, Dana Parsons, Bill Natlo, Jason Paige, Dennis Flores, Brandon Foster, Madison Winslow, Elliott Lee, Sara Omar, Andrew Berkowitz, Lily Archibald, Penny Lazar

Approval of Agenda

MOTION made to adopt the Agenda as distributed
Passed unanimously

Minutes from July meeting will be voted on next meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

- Welcome to the new board members: Margy Sargent, Dylan Lee, Jeremy Virgil, Sarah Bastile, Samantha Hailey
- Great officials clinic- guest speaker was great and well attended. Great way to start off this year.
- This year is off to a great start. Samford Sailfish are ranked 67th best swim team in the country. Annam Osalaware- came in 2nd at the World Junior meet in Israel. She had a time of 24.95 in the 50 FREE.
- Now the challenge is to continue to improve as the year moves along.

OLD BUSINESS

- Swimposium- Rick- No news for now.
- Governance update- Greg- He is in the process of contacting new board members. One of our mandates is to look at our board and see how effective it is being run. USA Swimming elected us to be LSC to go through professional independent 3rd party evaluation of the board. This will start in January. This will be through surveys it will be

anonymous and will compile a report based on the survey. Then will take action accordingly. This will satisfy our need to look at the components of the board. Do we have too many or too few committees, do we need to consolidate anything.

- Beth Wihkowski- has been elected to help CT Swimming. She will be our team services advisor for CT. She has been at USA Swimming for 2 years now. She will be at board meetings virtually. She will help facilitate with whatever we need from USA Swimming.
- DEI Event Update- Jeff- The event is confirmed. Rough framework of what is going on in November. Cullen Jones flying in Friday night. Sometime early Saturday Cullen will head to VELO and will run a couple of events. Learn to swim for underprivileged children in the area. There will be a number of volunteers who will assist as well. There will be 2 certified adult learn to swim instructors as well. This will enable the community to know that USA Swimming, CT Swimming, board members and swimmers are branching out to the community. Looking to raise awareness of what USA Swimming is and teach children to swim. This will hopefully be a recurring event. Can't always guarantee it will be Cullen or someone of his caliber. Cullen will be at the banquet on Sunday as well.
- Golden goggles have allocated 10K to this event. It is in LA this year so don't see anyone going. He would like to ask the board to free this money up and support this Cullen Jones event. USA Swimming has hinted that CT Swimming should contribute to this event to help fray the cost.

MOTION made to take the 10K that is allocated for the golden goggles event and transfer it to the DEI event in November.

Jones event. USA Swimming has hinted that CT Swimming should contribute to this event to help fray the cost.

MOTION made to take the 10K that is allocated for the golden goggles event and transfer it to the DEI event in November.

Passed unanimously



3 of 5

ptive Coordinator positions- We have 3 people that are interested in coordinator position. As of now, no one has volunteered for Adaptive Coordinator. If anyone knows anyone interested please let us know.

- Leap update- Jeff, Rick- Will meet in CO to get this taken care of.
- Senior Invite bidding update- Sean, Adriana- The dates are out- February 22-25, 2024- no bids yet.
- 2024 SC and 2024 LC Championship Schedule update- Sean, Ronnie, Yolanda, Hank- Confirmed these two meets below will be held at Wesleyan:
Seniors will be March 7-10, 2024
AG will be March 14-17, 2024

After these two meets Wesleyan wants to go season by season. Our back up locations for LC would be UConn, Greenwich and CPAC.

Wesleyan is the best location for these meets because it is so centrally located in CT.

We need to solidify LC dates due to July 4th weekend. See below:

CT Seniors- July 11-14

Regionals- July 19-21

AG- July 25-28

Zones- August 7-10

- Banquet update- Henk- All dates and deadlines et. Working on the program and the banquet booklet. The new thing this year is that there will be a QR code on each table. If you scan the code the banquet booklet will pop up on your device. This is a big change. Waiting for sign ups to put orders in for awards.
- FAST/SWIMS 3.0- Henk, Davide- To make an update to FAST he needs SWIMS reports. FAST is not official. FAST is a nice complement to SWIMS. SWIMS is official and counts. Bulk renewal went smoothly. The errors we have seen- parents are buying memberships when they don't have to.
- Zones update- Dana, Ronnie- Zones was awesome. Excited going to a new facility next year. Dana might not be in this position next year. Ronnie will also not take the position again but will coach. The Hybrid model was good. Great for everyone to be in the same hotel. CT received a lot of compliments about bringing the most fun. We had 5-6 winners this year. 5 individuals came from the GYWD Dolphins. Congratulations to Nick.
- CSI Publicity committee update- Heller-We need to get our information out our parents and our swimmers and our community. Need to form publicity committee. Hoping to have some local college students help with writing up the information. We need to get the information out on Championship meets, athletes, volunteers, etc. USA Swimming willing to help us too. Need to get our information out to the public. Yolanda and Dave will volunteer. Bill Natlo might help as well. Can use some athlete reps to help as well on this new Publicity and Media Committee.
- Coach Education Grand update- Henk- Deadline was Monday. We have five coaches applied. We have 3K allocated to this. The Coaches at Large decide- 2 coaches reps and Nick. There is also a point system to be used. They have either given out full amount or have split the allotment.

NEW BUSINESS

- CSI Financials- Sue-Fiscal year ends August 31st. Full 12 month set of financials. 2023 not as strong. Membership was down and surcharges were down as well. Profit of 43K. 21K investment income. LC was more profitable than SC. Almost one million dollars cash in the bank.
- Set date for 2024 Quassy- Henk- If we set our date for end of September then we will get same pricing as last year. It would be June 29th- same day as Open Water Swim competition.
- Set Fall HOD. Meeting date- October 24th at 8 pm

• USA Swim Phillip 66 Service Award update- Rick- 8 people were nominated. 2 people nominated multiple times. We will move forward on this.

• Championship meet calendar blockage/exclusivity- Heller, Jen- Tradition is to block

- USA Swim Phillip 66 Service Award update- Rick- 8 people were nominated. 2 people nominated multiple times. We will move forward on this.
- Championship meet calendar blockage/exclusivity- Heller, Jen- Tradition is to block dates when there are Championship meets (Seniors, AG and Regionals)- no other meets allowed. Would like to include Open Water Zones as one of these meets with exclusivity. Would like to increase participation in Open Water.

MOTION made that there shouldn't be any other meets on the date of Open Water like we do for other Championship meets.

Motion Fails

OFFICER REPORTS

- General Chair Report – Rick Lewis -Eastern Zone meeting coming up 10/1. Important to have some people participate from our LSC. We are entitled to 3 votes and 3 votes from athletes. Have to pre-register for this meeting. Would be great to have athletes on the call to vote and more participation. We put a bid in for the Open Water Zones every year. We lost the bid the last 2 years because we didn't have athletes on the call to vote.
- Administrative Vice-Chair – Jeff Sargent- nothing to report
- Treasurer-Susan Lecza- nothing to report
- Finance Vice-Chair – Joan Lynch- nothing to report
- Age Group Committee Chair – Ronnie Vaughan-Spoke with Yolanda about her involvement in AG Operations Championship meet. Would like Yolanda to be Co-Meet director for as long as possible for AG Championship meet. There will be no change to the cuts, will flip the order of events.
- Senior Committee Chair – Sean Farrell- Hoping for Yolanda to stay on and help as well.
- Technical Planning Committee Chair – Jason Paige- nothing to report
- Program Development Vice-Chair – Jen Lyman- nothing to report
- Program Operations Vice-Chair – Yolanda Jahan- Planning for SC started in July. Rule change- all meet announcements should post medical provisions that area available at the meet. Total meets of 102 for calendar season. Getting bigger and bigger every year. We have 15 more meet announcements to review. Deadline is Oct. 2nd.
- Officials Committee Chair –Dylan Lee/ Margy Sargent- New committee in place- looking for more athlete rep. Website has been updated. Our annual meeting had 128 out of 206 officials. We had our first meeting. All information is on officials web page. Holding monthly stroke/turn clinics virtually or in person. Want to streamline certification requirements. National Officials Committee meeting- No CT Swim officials are set for Olympic Trials. Stroke and turn invites will be given

out shortly. Will let you know if any CT officials get it. We have four officials helping at other National events.

- Operational Risk Coordinator – Brandon Foster- nothing to report
- Coach Representatives –Bill Natlo- Nominations for different awards are on CT Swim web page and will close this week.
- Athlete Representatives - Madison, Samantha-nothing to report
- Safe Sport Coordinator – Jeremy- Stratford YMCA is a new team to complete their requirements for safe sport.
- Coach-at-Large – Nick Cavataro- nothing to report
- Registration/Membership Coordinator – Kathleen/Davide Mendonca- nothing to report
- Zone Team Coordinator –Dana- nothing to report
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion – Dennis Flores-nothing to report

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Lazar
Secretary*