

Connecticut Swimming, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 29, 2012 7:30am

Conference

Recording

Call To Order/Roll Call: Rick Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:45am

Present: Rick Lewis, Lauren Bullock, Mark Sedlak, Nancy Wargo, Randy Erlenbach, Tak Takabayashi, Ed Becker, Edwin Doernberger, Judy Snow, Kaeley Steinnagel, Todd Gordon, Ty Seymour

Not Present: Jeffrey Gray, Dave Reilly, Jeff Scobee, Matt Hurst, Jordan Berger, Coral McNary, Kaz Takabayashi, Ed Heath, George Bradner

Also Present: Nan Cooper

Agenda: Judy Snow adds new clubs report to the agenda. A motion is made and seconded to approve the agenda as amended to include the above report. Motion passed.

Minutes: Motion is made and seconded to approve the minutes from June 13, 2012. Motion passes.

Announcements: Rick Lewis thanked everyone for attending the board meeting. He stated that CT Swim had a very successful year with the most national top ten, top sixteen and Olympic qualifiers ever.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Conflict of interest and privacy - Ethical paperwork was distributed by Nan and read. All present signed and returned the executed paperwork to Nan Cooper.

Committee Chair Reminders - Rick Lewis reminded everyone to get committee lists in to him ASAP.

2012-2013 Meeting Schedule - Nan reminded all that it requires 7 days notice to change meeting dates. Meetings are open to all but voting is limited to board members only. A draft of the meeting dates list was distributed. (Attached notes)

USAS Convention Updates and USA Swimming Legislative Changes - Rick Lewis reported that five CT reps attended (Rick Lewis, Dave Reilly, Ty Seymour, Ellen Johnston, Coral McNary). See attached notes on details.

The Eastern Zone spring meeting will be in Fort Lauderdale first and two out of four years within the zone.

USA Swimming reported the 'Make a Splash' program is going well. They have 553 teams involved and 47 states represented. Mostly inner cities involved as it stresses learn to swim programs. Connecticut is involved and does have programs. YMCA is linked to the program.

Our athlete reps attended the provided training sessions at the new Greensboro facility. There were

provided workouts but most swimmers did their own coach plans. No high profile coaches ran any practices.

Lastly, Rick mentioned that the board, before the convention, voted not to reimburse Ellen for the trip but Rick made a motion to reimburse her for her travel as she was instrumental to the meetings because we were shy of the five delegate votes we wanted for the convention. Ed seconded. Discussion followed: That board members are first for slots available to go, then if there are openings others can attend. Ellen and Christine Pelham had applied in advance. It was mentioned that since the budget was under and she is on national committee and served as a voting delegate it is appropriate but not for all members so a policy would need to be developed to stipulate reimbursements. Motion was amended and made to fund and pay for Ellen's reimbursements for travel including full room as she was a voting delegate and a national committee member with the contingency that we (Rick with Nan) develop a convention funding policy prior to convention next year and post it to the CT Swim website. Motion passed unanimously.

Athletic Travel Assistance - Rick referred to the submitted spreadsheet on athlete travel reimbursement. The total was \$33,184 a little higher than usual as it was an Olympic year. Ed made the motion to accept the athlete travel as outlined on the report. Mark seconded the motion. Discussion followed: Todd asked how the funds requested were verified. Nan stated that the funding is largely on the honor system. That the swimmers have to fill out and state they have accomplished the requirements, have not been reimbursed elsewhere and that if they accept funds above the trip cost it could affect their college eligibility. The motion passed unanimously as printed and stated.

Coach Travel Assistance - Rick reported that four coaches applied to date for the travel. It is open until Sunday, 9/30 so other coaches can still apply. Rick made the motion to approve these four coaches expenses totaling \$1,685.99. Ed seconded the motion. Discussion followed: Mark mentioned that one coach had requested travel in advance for Junior Pan Pacifics and had been turned down for funding because the Coach Travel Assistance policy doesn't pertain to coaches attending USA Swimming national team events as spectators. The question was could coaches in the future be supported with CSI travel assistance to any USA Swimming national team event as a support system to a LSC swimmer at a national team event.? Furthermore should the swimmer's team assist its coach attending USA Swimming national team meets . The concern was that USA Swimming does not want non-national team coaches involved with the swimmers. The discussion was tabled to be turned over to the seniors and age group committees for determination and further presentation. The committees need to present their ideas prior to the budget meeting in February so proposals should be brought to the January Board of Directors meeting..

Moving back to Olympic Trials coach travel reimbursement, Todd recommended that the approval be subject to verification by all four coaches teams/university/Y prior to payment since the policy is clear that it is only for expenses not covered by their team. Further discussion recommended that the funds be given to the clubs not the coaches to help cover their travel expenses. Further investigation will be done by the coaches committee to review the pure intent of the funds and recommend the funding policy for future years. It was suggested that If the committee determines the clubs be paid rather than the coaches that the finances be made retroactive to be paid to the clubs. It was recommended that the coaches committee recommend quickly to allow a decision by December meeting.

For this year, it was tabled to allow Nan to contact each club for verification. Once verification/eligibility is determined a vote will be made (possibly prior to the December board meeting) to reimburse the

eligible coaches. The policy will be moved to the coaches committee for a recommendation.

Coach Education Grants - Mark presented the grant spreadsheet of the coaches education grants applied for by four coaches. The policy includes coach grants up to \$2000. Jen Lyman and Dan Mascolo were awarded \$500 and Kim Georgiades and Elizabeth O'Keefe were awarded \$250 for the total - of \$1,500. Kaeley made the motion to fund the grants as outlined. No discussion was required. The motion passed unanimously.

Swimmer of the Year - Eric Ronda is the swimmer of the year.

The senior committee plans to change the criteria of selection to a new date to match what USA Swimming uses as the end of long course and short course. The new date will be: 'world ranking as of September 1st'.

Volunteer of the Year - Randy LaRocca is the volunteer of the year. He was selected due to his massive behind the scenes work since 2005 on behalf of CT Swimming, for the CT Zone Teams before he was sick, during and even his plans for after. Kaeley will meet with him in person to give him the good news. He will be able to attend the banquet and sit up front with his family. Immediate family will be gratis to the banquet.

Swimming in College Seminar - Kaeley and Hilary Berger under Technical Planning Committee will develop the program. They will schedule a college seminar this year with the goal that it will be an annual event in April or early May. They plan for a guidance counselor (Kaeley), D1/D2/D3 coaches, and a NCAA compliance officer. They are hoping to make it a bigger event like a college fair with coaches to meet with the swimmers/parents. Location and finances was a concern but it was believed many could offer free facilities for the event. Kaeley will start with Southern CT State University as it is centrally located. The event will be open to all CT swimmers but recommended for sophomores and juniors. The committee was given the freedom to determine how to select the unbiased speaking coaches.

New Clubs - Judy reported that we had a lot of activity and given all we have two teams that are ready to become teams. Rick made the motion to accept the two new teams: the JCC Blue Marlins Swim Team from Woodbridge and Southington Stingrays Swim Team (YMCA). Ed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers:

General Chair - Rick Lewis no report at this time

Administrative View Chair - Todd and Rick reported for Jeff Gray that the awards banquet will be held differently this year around the main speaker with the basic awards being handed out in the back of the hall on the way out after the program is complete. Only top awards will be given out during the event. The speaker for the awards banquet will be an Olympic swimmer possibly Katie Hoff and/or Brendan Hanson. Speedo would pay Katie's appearance fee and CT Swimming would pay travel and hotel fees. Ty and the other athlete reps will supply the music for the banquet.

Treasurer - Mary and Lauren reported that the cash balance is good and for seniors long course we made an additional \$6000 due to higher entry fees. Currently we are on track with last year. As of now, the final net should be about \$10-15,000 for FY ending August 31, 2012. Lauren will assume treasurer duties after files for the independent auditors are complete. (Attached notes)

Finance Vice Chair - Todd reported that this coming year the budget process will be more stringent with all points of view in advance but that we are in good shape. We had expenses this past year that are unusual i.e., Wesleyan score board for \$30,000. He feels we are in good shape for 2013 given the onetime expenses this year. Dan and Todd plan to republish reimbursement guidelines to remind of standard reasonable expenses.

Age Group Committee Chair - Dave Reilly not in attendance

Senior Group Committee Chair - Randy made the recommendation for next year's Athlete Travel Assistance to raise the assistance since Junior and Senior Nationals will be in Irvine, CA. The concept was tabled for Program Development (Oct 17th mtg) to approve the policy prior to the budget meeting. Randy will work with/on that committee to bring it forward.

Randy also stated that the committee plans to streamline the senior coach of the year selection with new criteria for when selected and how to vote on the coach of the year. Rick suggests the senior committee consider recommending those 3-5 candidates on the ballot and potentially set up through the CTS website or email voting to tally votes. The award now seems too early so timing needs to be determined by the committee and recommended with age group committee involvement as well.

Question was raised about the per splash fee at Senior Championship meets - \$7 is the splash fee. Rick confirmed the \$.50 was an issue so would remain as is now for the meet announcement.

Program Development Vice Chair – Jeff Scobee not in attendance

Program Operations Vice Chair - Tak (see submitted report) in 2012-13 we have 79 meets (vs 67 last year) 12 more meets this year. There are 34 meets with letters of intent to get officials to run the meets - hosts need to grow their officials. UConn has submitted intention to bid in a similar fashion as Wesleyan.. Long course dates are based on facility availabilities and work backwards.

Technical Planning Committee Chair - Kaeley reported that they have taken the responsibility of the college seminar.

They have a rough plan for the next few years and in Oct at their committee meeting they plan to work with both the senior and age group committee together to select a few times a year to bring the swimmers together. They will ask CT Swimming to keep a few weekends sacred for these events like senior invitational.

The committee plans to meet with finance for advice on whether CT Swimming could lower host club surcharge - to encourage and honor teams that step forward. More information to come on that initiative and facilities.

Coach Representatives - Mark reported earlier on education point system and more efficient coach of the year system. The committee is to investigate both. Coaches want to have a coach's swimposium with a coaching track possibly at House of Delegates meeting. Niagara has full weekend of events for coaches. Coaches may want to model the Eastern States clinic with parallel athlete track with Olympic athletes and top coaches.

Athlete Representatives - Ty reported that athletes want to start up the 'Catch the Spirit' campaign

again that was done about 5 years ago. They have begun working with Jen Lyman for advice and guidance to bring forward later to the program development committee.

Coach-at-Large - George not in attendance

Safety Committee Chair - Ed not in attendance

Officials Committee Chair - Ed reported officials are in good shape. Officials' annual meeting was about to start. All are welcome to stay to hear their detailed report and the speaker Paul M, the Olympic starter.

Registration/Membership Coordinator - Judy reported that we have two more teams to still register once their materials are ready. The coaches are having issues with professional rescue vs infant rescue per USA Swimming and information needs to be clarified for registration/certification.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23am

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Wargo
CSI Secretary