

**Central Zone Athlete Committee—Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 8:30 PM CT**  
**Via Conference Call**

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**I. Call to Order and Attendance**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Swanson at 8:33 PM CT. Attendance was taken.

Those Present: Jack Swanson, Brad Jacobs, Patrick Hunter, Sophia Brauer, Joe Gazzarato, Erin McCarthy, Ashton Pearson, Erin McCarthy

Those Absent: Joncy Mastel, Peyton Werner, Lexi Monty, Craig Tompkins, Jack Van Meter, Emma Schaez, Amy Schulz, Bailey Grinter

**II. Review of Mission Statement and Core Values**

Swanson reviewed the Committee Mission Statement and Core Values.

**III. Approval of Committee Officers**

Swanson asked for a motion to approve Brad Jacobs as Committee Vice Chair and Patrick Hunter as Committee Secretary. A motion was made to approve these appointments. Seconded. All in favor.

**IV. AEC, Central Zone, and National Committee Updates**

Swanson gave an update on the Athletes Executive Committee and on the Athletes Leadership and Recruitment and Taskforce. Both are currently working to expand and grow recruitment and development initiatives for athletes, including content for the Zone meetings.

Jacobs provided an update on the Rules and Regulations Committee, which will meet in Seattle the weekend of June 10. He asked that any issues or proposals be raised by the beginning of May, as the legislation submission deadline is shortly thereafter.

Hunter gave an update on the Officials Committee. USA Swimming recently launched the #OfficiallyAwesome campaign, with the goal of celebrating officiating and promoting it to new officials—and important task, since officials are volunteers, and more are always needed. Hunter has also been doing significant work in regards to the Committee's training materials as well as recruitment, retention, and reciprocity documents. Jacobs inquired as to whether any information is available as far as age data for officials, which could help recruit more younger officials; Hunter will investigate.

Gazzarato provided an update on the Registration/Membership Committee, which met in Nashville the weekend of Feb 10-11. The Committee is in the final stages of preparing a member data validation service, which will allow clubs to directly register their athletes with USA Swimming. This will only be for clubs, not something individuals can do on their own. The Committee also made a few updates to their policies and procedures.

Swanson provided an update on the Governance Committee, which will meet in Denver at the end of April. One of the goals of this meeting is to provide a definition of governance to be used

within the context of USA Swimming. The Committee is also working with the Rules and Regulations and LSC Development Committees to craft a new set of model LSC bylaws that are shorter and simpler, as the current ones are over 70 pages long. The Committee is also looking at the function of Board of Directors of USA Swimming and what potential changes could aid the success of the organization.

## **V. LSC Updates**

Gazzarato provided an update on Michigan, which recently introduced a website solely dedicated to communicating with its athlete members. They will recruit prospective representatives at their LSC Senior Championship, with elections will be held at their House of Delegates meeting.

Jacobs provided an update on Indiana, which has been discussing its progress with IUPUI Natatorium renovation, and its need for more money to finish the project, specifically for a scoreboard and sound system. Additionally, the LSC's Senior Athlete Representative has stepped down, and the LSC is currently in the process of filling the vacancy. They will recruit potential athlete representatives through flyers in the heat sheets for their state meets, as parents will see them and encourage their swimmers to run. Jacobs has found this very effective. They will be filling three positions at their House of Delegates meeting.

Pearson provided an update on Missouri Valley Swimming, which has set-up a Twitter page to use for communication and recruitment initiatives. They are currently in the process of forming an Athlete Committee, with its first meeting scheduled for April.

McCarthy provided an update on Minnesota, which will hold its House of Delegates meeting in April. The athlete leadership will be running educational workshops for athletes. Ideally one athlete from each club will attend both the meetings and the workshops, but the realistic goal is as many as possible. They are hoping these events will aid in recruitment for following year's elections, as well. The Minnesota Athlete Committee is planning to organize a social event for this summer. Additionally, the LSC might replace its Nominating Committee with a Governance Committee with a slightly broader scope.

## **VI. Social Media and Communication Updates**

Swanson, Jacobs, Pearson, and Schaetz are maintaining the Committee's Twitter account, which is still in the process of gaining followers.

Swanson stated that the Committee is a bit behind with producing the newsletter, but that it is still an important goal. Will use social media to promote when done.

## **VII. Spring Zone Meeting, Chicago, May 19-21**

USA Swimming will pay hotel and per diem costs for one athlete from each LSC; they LSC must fund the airfare. Athletes may attend another zone's meeting if they cannot attend the Central Zone one; this can be arranged through a LSC's General Chair. Athletes who are not their LSC's Senior Athlete Representative who are interested in attending should talk to their General Chair to explore options.

Tentative schedule for athlete track of meeting:

Arrive in Chicago Friday late morning/early afternoon.

4:00 PM: Informal gathering of athletes

5:00 PM: Social

7:00 PM: First meeting, will be with athletes and General Chairs to discuss goals and progresses, set new goals, etc.

Sat AM: LSC Athlete Committee training

How to recruit an Athlete Committee, how to run meeting

Sat PM: LSC Board member training for athletes

How to be an effective board member; duties of care, loyalty, and obedience and how athletes can execute them

Swanson asked for feedback as to content Committee members would like to be seen in these workshops.

- McCarthy would like to see tips on how to get new Board athletes acquainted quicker so that they may serve more effectively.
- Gazzarato would like advice in regards to how to delegate tasks to and utilize the services of LSC Athlete Committee members.
- Gazzarato also suggested that it might be helpful to provide some advice as to how to construct and present an effective argument to other Board members.

### **VIII. Other Questions, Comments, and Concerns**

None were raised.

### **IV. Adjourn**

Motion was made. Seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM CT.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Hunter