

**NIAGARA LSC
HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING
October 3, 2009**

Board of Directors Present: Marci Callan, General Chair; John Kingston, Finance Vice Chair; Marty Keating, Sr. Swimming Vice Chair; Deborah Burke, Age Group Swimming Vice Chair; Jim Bowen, Registration Chair; Steve Snyder, Treasurer; Tim DuBois, Technical Planning Committee Chair; Laurie McManus, Sr. Coaches Representative; Ryan Callan, Jr. Coaches Representative; Barb Paradis, Safety Chair; Gary Karl, By-Laws Chair; Bob Matlack, At Large Member; Amy Keech, Jr. Athlete Representative; Will Brophy, Sr. Athlete Representative.

Board of Directors Excused/Absent: Martha Keating, Secretary; Rich Wisniewski, Admin Vice Chair

- I. **Meeting was called to Order** at 1:10 p.m. by the General Chair.
- II. **Jr. Athlete Representative** Amy Keech offered remarks on how Delegates can contribute to a smooth running meeting process.
- III. **Roll Call:** 41 of 79 member Clubs and Organizations present. 13 of 18 members of the Board of Directors present. Total voting members present = 54.
- IV. **Meeting Minutes** from previous HOD meeting reviewed and the following corrections noted: Amy Keech's team affiliation was incorrectly noted. Her proper team affiliation is SDSC. It was moved and seconded to accept the meeting minutes with the noted correction. Motion passed.
- V. **Officer Reports:** The following reports were made by Officers:
 - A. General Chair Callan reviewed the written report posted on the Niagara LSC website, which outlined the project priorities of the Board of Directors.
 - B. Admin Vice Chair Wisniewski's report was previously posted on the Niagara LSC website.
 - C. Sr. Swimming Vice Chair Keating's report was previously posted on the Niagara LSC website.
 - D. Age Group Swimming Vice Chair Burke reported the following:
 - A. 2009 Long Course Zone Championships were held at Penn State University, with Niagara represented by 46 Swimmers who achieved a 7th place finish. Thanks to Coaches Kim Corby, Kevin Rathke, Mike Zyprowski, and Doug Tobey and Chaperones Margaret Tanchick and Brenda Rathke for their assistance at the meet.
 - B. Entry limits for the 2010 Eastern Zone Short Course meet have been modified by the Eastern Zone to allow up to three (3) swimmers per event in the 10 & Under and 11-12 age groups. All other entry limits are unchanged. It is estimated that this will increase the Niagara team size by 6 to 12 swimmers.
 - C. The "Versatile Swimmer" awards program will be phased out after the 2009-2010 swim season, and will be replaced by an IMX awards program. Details of the IMX Awards program will be available in the summer/fall of 2010. The "Go the Distance" awards program remains unchanged.
 - D. Eligibility for the Zone Team will be reviewed, as a couple of coaches have expressed concern of not maximizing the team entry due to enforcement of time standards. Additional input from Coaches welcome until the end of October.

E. Technical Planning Committee Chair DuBois reported the following:

- General performance improvement noted in long course swimming as indicated by higher proportion (.18%) of qualifiers for national meets. Also noted an increased number of swims by 3000 due to impact of the Super Circuit meets.
- Will propose some long course meet opportunities during the traditional short-course season.
- Noted some areas where clubs are lagging behind when compared to others LSC's, including IMX performance, Virtual Club Championships, and the Club Recognition program.
- Time Standards for Niagara meets including a downloadable time standards file for Hy-Tek programs will be available soon.

Some concern was raised from the floor about adding long-course meets to the meet calendar which may compete with previously approved meets. Tim discussed rationale and noted the needs of swimmers at the national level need to include more long-course opportunities. The MERC representative also noted the LSC is under-spent in club strengthening. Pass along any ideas regarding club strengthening to Tim.

F. Finance Vice Chair Kingston reported that volunteers are needed to participate in the financial audit.

G. Sr. Coach Representative McManus summarized the discussion from the morning's Coaches Meeting. Highlights include:

- Updated rules/limitations regarding "legal" swim suits were provided.
- Details of the "IMX-Ready" program of USA Swimming were reviewed. Details regarding the addition of the IMX Games were also provided.
- Clinic for Coaches sponsored by USA Swimming to be held in Ithaca in November was announced.
- Coaches were also provided with details regarding the Travel Reimbursement program, noting that criteria will be announced later due to the increased number of meets and eligible swimmers.

H. Sr. Athlete Representative Brophy summarized the discussion from the morning's Athletes meeting. Highlights include:

- Athletes enjoy "march outs" and recognition efforts at meets.
- Athletes also like "Shoot Out" events, 50's of stroke and the 100 IM events, and relay meets.
- Athletes expressed concern about long-course meets without continuous warm-up/warm-down areas.
- Athletes appreciate hosts who provide ample water for swimmers, seating behind the starting blocks.

- Athlete Representatives from Clubs need more practical support from their Coaches. Recommended consideration of mandatory attendance of Athlete Representatives at these meetings.

It was suggested that the Athlete Representatives consider increasing communication by use of Facebook, Twitter, etc.

- I. Safety Chair Paradis' report was previously posted on the website.
- J. Treasurer Snyder reported the LSC has had a "good year" fiscally, which did not require utilization of reserve funds. He also reported that the 401(k) investment is performing well, and had fully rebounded from losses of the previous years. He also reminded HOD members to consider ways to utilize the available Club Strengthening funds.
- K. Membership Chair Bowen reported a nation-wide increase in athlete registrations of 11%, and a 7% increase in the Niagara LSC. Current membership is 6500+ athletes, ranking Niagara 13th in size nation-wide. He also reported that 20 of 75 clubs have registered thus far, with one new club (Genesee Valley Swim Club) member, with one more club (Lakeshore Swim Club) in the application process.

VI. Committees and Coordinator's Reports:

- A. General Chair Callan reported that 2 Officials will attend the upcoming USA Officials Clinic.
- B. By-Laws Chair Karl – No report.
- C. Disability Swimming Committee Chair – General Chair Callan introduced new Committee Chair Queenie Nichols to the HOD.
- D. Diversity Swimming – report posted on website.
- E. Scholarship Committee – report posted on website.
- F. Board of Review – no report.
- G. National Times Verification – report posted on website.
- H. Communications – report posted on website.
- I. Records – Jim Bowen noted that a large number of Niagara LSC records were broken.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- A. Finance Vice Chair Kingston presented a proposed by-law amendment that excludes Athlete Representatives from the Club representation counts in the composition of the LSC Board of Directors. The following information was presented for the HOD's consideration:
 - 21 of 51 LSC's have no restriction in club representation on it's Board of Directors
 - 26 of 51 excluded Athlete Representatives from the organizational count when club representation on the Board is limited.
 - 4 of 51 included Athletes in the organizational count when club representation is limited.

- It was noted that Niagara is in the minority when compared to other LSC's on this issue, and that athletes compose their own constituency that should not be dictated by the Board of Directors or the HOD. Also noted that the T. Stevens Amateur Sports Act requires that athletes have a strong and independent voice in all sports Boards of Directors. The distinction was made between the Representatives elected by the Athletes and Athletes appointed to "At Large" positions on the Board and Committees.

It was motioned by Gary Karl and seconded by Marty Keating to approve the posted by-laws amendment as written.

Discussion: It was clarified that the Board is composed of 19 positions, and that 2/3 of the HOD is required to pass the motion. It was questioned if the notice of proposed amendment was in order according to Niagara's by-laws (6.11.3), which dictates notice to the HOD and the required vote to pass. It was noted that the notice was posted on the website no later than 9/2/09.

Vote: Yes = 46 votes
No = 0 votes
Abstain = 6 votes

Motion Carries.

2009 – 2010 Budget Proposal: Finance Vice Chair Kingston presented the proposed budget on behalf of the Board. He reminded the HOD that on \$10 of the registration fees paid by members goes into the Niagara operating budget, with the balance forwarded to USA Swimming. The proposed budget removes portfolio investment figures, as such is not an actual part of the operating budget. It was also noted that Zone Team expenses are largely offset by Zone Team revenue/surcharges.

Vote: Budget passed as proposed.

Nominating Committee Elections: The floor was opened for nominations for the aforementioned committee. Nominations included:

- Buffalo region: Judy Wetzen & Russ Sampson
- Syracuse region: Chris Torell
- Rochester region: Jean Aurio & Amy Keech
- Southern Tier region: Jerry Roberts
- Past General Chair: Barb Paradis

All were elected to the Nominating Committee.

Meet Calendar: Meet calendar was presented by Tim DuBois.

- Deb Donnarumma (TTSC) proposed the calendar be amended to add May 15 &16, and August 13-15 meet dates, hosted by TTSC. Motion carried.
- RAYS proposed an amendment to take unrestricted entries for the July 2010 meet if the Niagara Classic is closed prior to its entry deadline. J. Bowen noted that entries for the Classic will not be closed prior to deadline to best deal with changes in teams entries and volume. Motion carried.
- Super Sectional Meet, Eastern Zone, is added for the August 5 – 8, 2010 dates.

It was motioned by Steve Snyder and seconded by Gary Karl to approve the Meet Calendar as amended.
Motion Carried.

Special Awards:

- Queenie Nichol has been recognized by USA Swimming for outstanding service to swimmers with disabilities. Award presented by General Chair Callan.
- General Chair Callan also presented the Conoco Phillips Outstanding Service Award to Bob Matlack.
- General Chair Callan also recognized Gary Karl as the recipient of the same award for 2007-2008.

Club Strengthening: Technical Planning Committee Chair DuBois announced that only 4 clubs have participated in the national Club Recognition program. To better promote this program, \$400 is available to “first time” clubs who achieve level 1, and to clubs to raise their recognition to the next level.

Make a Splash: DuBois also announced the USA Swimming initiative to teach all children to swim.

Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Deborah Burke
Age Group Vice Chair