

2016 USA Swimming Convention Report

Dane Wolfrom

Disability – At the national level not much to report. At the Zone Level they appear to be very interested in growing the disability committee, perhaps finally including a pathway for swimmers with disabilities to swim in finals. Also it is likely either a zone camp or meet will be created. PNS should consider bidding on a camp if one does get created.

Haley Beranbaum—formally from SRST—swam in Rio at the Paralympics. She trains with the USA Resident Team in Colorado Springs and was appointed the Chair of the Western Zone Disability Committee. I believe I will also be on that committee.

Marketing – I attended the Marketing presentations and collected some hints and hacks for social media and press releases.

Diversity and Inclusion – D&I is mentioned 13 times in the USA-S Business Plan, but was only mentioned once in Chuck Wielgus’ “State of Swimming” address. The business meeting was extremely disappointing with nothing really done other than talking about how great they each are. They will be updating the original D&I manual. They will be making recommendations to the LSCs on what to use for future outreach. It should be noted that the Western Zone is further along on this and I would recommend PNS follow the WZ lead or move forward on this matter now.

Schuyler Bailar spoke and it was really great. The take-home is probably if you come across LGBTQ swimmers never assume anything and ask questions. One important thing for coaches to remember is that they may come and talk with their coaches first before parents.

I also met individually with three different USA-S staff members to discuss D&I issues involving the social-economic impact on ethnicity and participation in USA Swimming.

Finance – I have a list of what we need for LEAP 2 and LEAP 3 and plan to do both in the next year. Basically there is a checklist of “Financial Assessment” and External Procedures Audit and an External Review.

Senior Development – Saw presentation of what they did between trials and Rio. Also learned a lot about the direction the Junior National Team is going, and the selection process. Admitted they “over-legislated” sectional meets and do not want to do the same with the senior zone meets and Futures. However, they do want to streamline and make zones and futures consistent across the country. (Not sure how you can completely have both.) National Sectional and Futures [top-end] cuts will remain the same next year.

Social – Possibly the worst BBQ in Atlanta is a short 1.2-mile walk from the hotel. I was able to visit Martin Luther Kings, Jr’s place of birth and civil rights museum. The officials hogged the hotel lounge so mostly the coaches’ evening meetings transpired at the Metro Café, named after my team. On Thursday, some woman from Cal came up to me and introduced herself—her name was Natalie if you are wondering—and then she had me sing Karaoke with her friends—I think their names were Anthony and Shields. The best steak in Atlanta can be had at “Cuts” which is across the street from the Metro Café.

Zone – The only thing new at the zone which was discussed was lowering the N2/N3 training availability at the Age Group Zone meet. I believe nothing came of the discussion.