

Tri-State Swim Conference
Fall Meeting 2024
Saturday, August 24, 2024
Joplin, MO

Michael called the meeting to order at 10:08 am.

The roll call was taken. In-person attendees: Chanute, Ft. Scott, Joplin, Kraken, Lamar, Monett, Nevada, Parsons, Pittsburg, and Webb City. Online attendees: Green Country and Siloam Springs. Executive board members: Michael Pommier, Meri Smith, and Brittanica Born. Matt Zamora, head official. Not present: Shay Wright-Goff.

I. Officer Reports:

- a. **President:** Michael thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressed his satisfaction with how the season went overall. He noted that the kids had fun, which is the primary goal.
 - i. The spring meeting will be on April 5th at 10 a.m. at KW. Monett made a motion to approve the date and time, and Webb City seconded it. The motion passed.
 - ii. **Committee Organization:** We currently have two committees.
 - 1. Rules and Competition Committee: This committee addresses time standards, competition rules, and issues that arise during meets.
 - 2. Operations Committee: This committee focuses on administrative matters, including meet selection rotation and administration of meets (Meet Manager, computer work, meet files, etc).
 - 3. Darren originally established these committees to facilitate smaller groups discussions, allowing them to present their findings at conference meetings. This structure aims to prevent our fall and spring meetings from becoming overly lengthy work sessions.
- b. **Secretary:** Shay is absent today. Meri emailed the minutes from the spring meeting to all team representatives. The issues regarding checks from Green Country and Monett from the spring meeting have been resolved. Michael also sent out the minutes from the special meeting on July 6th, held in Joplin, where we discussed renumbering the 6 and under events (due to timing systems not allowing for the "A" designation after event numbers) and the purchase of the timing console interface for the conference Meet Manager license. Chanute made a motion to approve the minutes, and Lamar seconded. The motion passed.
- c. **Treasurer's Report:** The balance in March was \$1,816.93. There were deposits totaling \$12,511.00. Expenses amounted to \$8,846.81. The current bank balance stands at \$5,481.12. While Brittancia was reviewing the accounts, she discovered that a few teams have been undercharged or overcharged, but the discrepancies are not more than \$100 either way. She plans to investigate this issue further. The \$5 fee per swimmer

for all teams has been effective and helpful. Brittancia intends to send out invoices earlier in the spring. There is a question regarding when and how to account for the insurance increases per swimmer. We will contact Darren, Amy Cole, and possibly April Rose to obtain further clarification on this matter. Monett motioned to accept the treasurer's report, and Joplin seconded. The motion passed.

- d. **Head Official:** Head Official: "We successfully completed the season". There were over 40 officials listed. Of those, only 19 were active at three or more meets, while over 20 did not participate in any meets. Six officials worked one or two meets during the season. Unfortunately, the same officials are on deck for each event. From a safety perspective, we need more officials to share the workload, especially in hot conditions. The purpose of having officials is not to penalize swimmers but to assist coaches in identifying areas for improvement to prevent disqualifications at championships. As always, the first step to becoming an official is to attend a training class. Current and USA/YMCA-certified officials are encouraged to assist new officials during training sessions. New officials should observe experienced officials to become more comfortable in their roles. Those with USA or YMCA certification do not need to attend training but must ensure we have a copy of their current official card. Online training for USA Swimming stroke and turn officials is available.

- 1. **Injuries:** Lifeguards at the pools must notify the meet host or Tri-State personnel to ensure that the necessary paperwork is completed for any injuries or accidents. Meet hosts should prepare this paperwork before the meets to facilitate the reporting process.

II. Old Business:

- a. **Competition Committee:** No report was provided, as the committee was not able to meet before the fall meeting.
- b. **Operation Committee:** This committee will discuss two main points: the meet selection rotation and a contingency plan for situations if there are not enough officials present at the swim meet(s). We may need to implement a sign-up system for officials before the meets so we know who will be available for each event in advance.

III. Election of Officers:

- a. **Vice President:** Michael read the description of the Vice President's duties as outlined in the bylaws. He then opened the floor for nominations for the VP position. Trevor nominated Meri. There were no further nominations. All teams approved the nomination, and Meri will serve another term as Vice President.
- b. **Secretary:** Michael read the description of the duties of the secretary from the bylaws and then opened the floor for nominations. The current secretary was absent from the meeting today, so Michael encouraged the teams to advise the board if anyone was interested in serving. Ronda Azelton expressed her interest, and Michael nominated her. All teams approved the nomination, and Ronda will take on the role of secretary.

IV. Selection of 2024 Invitationals and Championship:

- a. **B Champs:** Both Webb City and Kraken expressed interest in hosting. Webb City has indicated that their parents may be hesitant to help host and could push back, while Kraken has strong support from parents, the YMCA, and local businesses. A roll call vote was conducted, resulting in 11 votes for Kraken (from Monett, Ft. Scott, Chanute, Parsons, Siloam, Green Country, Pittsburg, Webb City, Lamar, and Nevada) and 1 vote for Webb City (from Joplin). Consequently, Kraken will host B Champs.
- b. **A Champs:** Monett is the only team interested in hosting A Champs.
- c. Green Country: no pool currently and will take a bye.
- d. Lamar: bye
- e. Ft. Scott: June 14 & 15
- f. Chanute: June 21
- g. Siloam Springs: June 28
- h. Pittsburg: June 7 & 8
- i. Joplin: July 19 & 20
- j. Parsons: May 31
- k. Nevada: July 5 & 6
- l. Webb City: bye
- m. Kraken: July 12 & B Champs
- n. Monett: A Champs

Schedule:

May 31: Parsons (1 day)
June 7 & 8: Pittsburg (2 days)
June 14-15: Ft. Scott (2 days)
June 21: Chanute (1 day)
June 28: Siloam Springs (1 day)
July 5 & 6: Nevada (2 days)
July 12: Kraken (Carthage) 1 day
July 19 & 20: Joplin (2 days)
July 26 & 27: B Champs: Kraken (Carthage)
August 2 & 3: A Champs: Monett
Byes: Green Country, Lamar, and Webb City

V. New Business:

- a. **LaGarce Legacy Award:** The LaGarce Legacy Award will be presented annually by the conference in honor of Charles, acknowledging his years of service and contributions. This award can be given to a parent, swimmer, coach, or official who meets specific criteria.

Eligibility Requirements:

- The nominee must have at least five years of service.
- They should demonstrate teamwork, leadership, passion, and dedication.

- A positive relationship with other teams in the conference is essential.

Nominations will open on January 1st each year and close on the day of the spring meeting. To nominate someone, an essay of at least 200 words must be submitted, explaining why the nominee deserves the award. Nominations will be collected via Google Docs, Google Forms, or another online platform. All nominations will be kept confidential and shared only with the Executive Board of the conference.

If a member of the Executive Board is nominated, a replacement will be appointed to ensure their absence during the nomination process.

A plaque will be displayed at the Monett YMCA (pending their approval) featuring Charles's picture and listing the names of the recipients of this award. The award presentation will occur at A Champs, and further information will be provided once approval is granted. Kraken motions to accept the award pending approval from the Monett YMCA. Ft. Scott seconded the motion, and it passed.

- b. The following three agenda items - addition of the 200 free for younger age groups, eligibility of college students, and A Champ swims for B Champs medalists/bonus events at A Champs - will be discussed for informational purposes in the committees.
 - i. **200 Free addition.** There is a proposal to add the 200 free event for younger swimmers. Currently, this event is only available for the 15-18 age groups. While there is openness to establishing a reasonable time standard for eligibility, there is concern about extending meet times. This will be reviewed by the competition committee.
 - ii. **College Students.** A recommendation has been made that swimmers should only be eligible to compete until their graduating high school year. The current bylaw allows participation until age 18, with the birthday age-up date set for June 1 each season. A bylaw change would be necessary to implement this suggestion.
 - iii. **A Champ swims for B Champs medalists/Bonus events at A Champs.** It is advised that B Champs should not require time standards or legal times, with the only stipulation being participation in three meets. Additionally, A Champs swimmers could have the opportunity to compete in bonus events. First and second-place finishers at B Champs would automatically qualify to swim at A Champs, and relay-only swimmers could also participate in bonus events. The number of bonus events allowed would depend on the swimmer's A-qualifying times. There is also a proposal to create a 6-and-under age group at A Champs for swimmers who meet A times, as currently, this age group only exists at B Champs where they must swim the 8-and-under A time.

- c. **Other Business from Conference Teams:** Monett is in need of a head coach and has requested any job descriptions or relevant information to be shared.
- d. It is suggested that perhaps the Operations and Competition committees combine. Right now, they will be kept as separate committees.

Looking ahead to next fall, elections will be held for the positions of President and Treasurer. Michael will be assuming the Head Official role, though he intends to separate this from the President position. Teams are encouraged to think ahead and consider job shadowing Michael for the conference president duties. Matt expressed gratitude to Michael for taking on the Head Official responsibilities, while Rob has also been shadowing Bill.

VI. The motion to adjourn was made by Lamar and seconded by Monett, with the meeting officially closing at 11:59 am.