

WESTERN ZONE MINUTES
Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago, IL
September 17-18, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Larry Johnson, Senior Zone Director.

All Western Zone LSCs were represented. Elected and appointed officers present: Larry Johnson, Senior Zone Director; Brandon Drawz, Junior Zone Director; Don Brown, Swimming Championship Coordinator; Marilyn Loitz, Secretary/Treasurer; Carole Yoshiwara, Athlete Representative; Robert Broyles, Officials Coordinator; Eugene Mielke, Disability Swimming Coordinator.

Kim O'Shea, Make A Splash Manager; Julie O'Neil, Team Leader for US Paralympics; Mary Jo Swalley, Program Development Vice President; and Bill Krumm, Western Zone Sport Development Consultant were introduced.

M/S/P Motion to approve the minutes from September 25-26, 2008 as submitted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Senior Zone Director, Larry Johnson. This past year has provided some interesting changes. The initial kickoff of the Western Zone Senior Championship Meet was a challenge and will continue to be so as we build on it and try to provide the best opportunities for our athletes. It is easy to come up with the thought of a new meet and easy to think it will satisfy a slot that we are missing. The challenge will be to keep in mind that whatever we do has to be for the benefit of our athletes. As this meet goes forward, if it is filling that need it will be a success; if it isn't, it will be a failure. Some new ideas will be proposed, and you are asked to keep an open mind and give them a chance. If it is successful, it will only be successful because the athletes profit from it. It has been a pleasure to serve as a Western Zone Director and on the USA Swimming Board for the last four years, and it has been an experience that won't be forgotten. It has been enlightening, challenging and very interesting. What I will take away from it the most is the people that I have worked with in the Zone—a very special group of people.

Junior Zone Director, Brandon Drawz. Brandon thanked everybody for allowing him the opportunity to serve our zone and our athletes. It is truly about service and about what we are doing to make our sport better. It is a remarkable experience; and as long we keep in mind that we are here to serve our athletes, we should do good work. There are a lot of young faces out there, and you are encouraged to get involved in service to your sport. Athletes, when you are through swimming, get involved in service to your sport. I have learned over the last year that new ideas are good and history is good though you don't ever want to look in the face of history. Bringing in fresh blood and fresh ideas are generally a good thing. Larry was thanked for being a great mentor, a great advisor and a lot of fun to work with in coming up with ideas for the long term that will move us forward rather than just being reactive to things. We are looking years ahead to improve our zone's position in meets and programs for our athletes that will make us all better in the end and better on the world stage. Hawaiian Swimming was also thanked for doing a great job on the meets this summer. Everyone is encouraged to keep looking forward as to how each of us can help to improve the zone for our athletes.

Swimming Championship Coordinator, Don Brown. Hawaii did a great job; the meet ran well; there was even a break between time trials and finals. Things were good for the athletes. At the zone dinner it was voted to keep the 2009 Time Standards in place for 2010. Don thanked the zone for allowing him to serve them for the past four years.

Secretary/Treasurer, Marilyn Loitz. (Attachment 1)

Officials Coordinator, Robert Broyles. Over 40 officials representing 13 LSC's worked the deck at the 2009 Western Zone Championships held on Oahu. Special recognition should be given to: Meet Referee, Paul Reidl (SN); Administrative Referee, Julie Carpenter (OR) and Team Lead/Chief Judge, Dave Coleman (HI). Special thanks also to Mike Saltzstein (SI) and Robert Broyles (IE) for their work as meet evaluators and additionally to Mike for the outstanding starter clinic he ran. Western Zone was represented this summer by Meet Referees at the following National and Sectional meets: US Open, Mary Jo Swalley (CA); Jr Nationals, Dave Coddington (PN); Gold Sectional, Dick Pierson (CA); Blue Sectional, Jacki Allender (OR). Zone officials are encouraged to

apply to work the deck at the Short Course Nationals in Federal Way in December 2010. Everyone N2 and above will be eligible to work that meet. Bill Rose (SN) will be the Meet Referee for the 2009 Short Course Jr. Nationals in Columbus, OH in December.

Zone officials chairs met, learned together and shared ideas at the Officials Chairs clinic in Minneapolis in May. The chairs had opportunity to network and get up-to-date information from the National Officials Committee.

Robert thanked past and current Zone Directors Mike Saltzstein, John Kinney, Ken Ebuna, Vicki Marsh, Larry Johnson and Brandon Drawz for their support, mentoring and the opportunity to be of service to our Zone, athletes, volunteers, and officials. He also thanked the past Zone Meet Referees Renee Patterson (CC), Judy L'Roy (OR), Don Hougardy (IE) and Paul Reidl (SN) who he had the pleasure of working with directly. Their dedication and commitment of service to the Zone and our sport and to what is probably the most challenging (and fun!) meet an official will ever work is something very special and should be recognized again as we move forward into 2010.

Athlete Representative, Carole Yoshiwara. Carole had the opportunity to attend the Western Zone meet where she attempted to talk to representatives from each team. At the Senior Meet she spoke to nearly all of the swimmers. LSC Athlete Representatives are encouraged to contact Carole with their thoughts, ideas and questions.

REPORT OF CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

Jon Hayashida thanked the 14 LSC teams who attended during these tough economic times. There were 498 swimmers in attendance. With the weather being pleasant and the water cool enough, times were good. Lynn Liu did an excellent job of pulling support in from all of the islands as well as from the mainland. There were over 700 attending the Swimmer Social on Saturday evening.

REPORTS OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Age Group Development Committee, Linda Eaton/Jennifer Tonkyn. The four main topics that the committee dealt with this past year were: 1) Swimsuit legislation; 2) Topics for Age Groups Chairs Convention Workshop; 3) topics for Open Water Convention Seminar and 4) 2009 IM Extreme Games.

The IM Extreme Games will be held annually during November or December in six regional locations. Their purpose is to promote strong technique development in all strokes for age group swimmers 11-14 and to provide an avenue for measuring performance in competition at a regional level. Qualifying standards are 2,100 points for girls and 2,000 points for boys. Each age and each gender will be scored individually; eight awards, Top 16. Also the top three teams will receive awards. The committee has worked hard to make this a doable meet. Because the 11 and 12 year olds swim five events and the 13 and 14 year olds six events, the meet has been set up to have a minimal impact on their school time while still allowing plenty of rest time during the sessions. Most of the work has been done; each team will receive a team manager file and each site will receive a template to customize for their location. Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, OR will host on December 11-13, 2009 and Brophy Sports Complex, Phoenix, AZ on November 20-22, 2009.

Disability Swimming, Don Watkins. The Disability Committee has added awards and now gives a Service Award, an Athlete Award, a Coach's Award and Recognition at the LSC level. Certificates are given at the LSC level with an autographed picture done by Cindy Miller. The winner of the 2009 Trischa Zorn Award is Mallory Weggermann from MN Swimming. Nominees from our zone were Kendall Bailey, Michael Demarco, Roy Perkins, SI; Cortney Jordan, CA; Marin Morrison PN; Erin Popovich, CO; Joe Wise, PC. Western Zone had far more nominees than any other zone. The National Service Award went to Keith Kennedy, OH Swimming. Pat Risser, SN and SI Swimming were recognized as LSC Service Award winners. The new Jimi Flowers Coach of the Year Award was given to Jimi Flowers. Justin Berry and his coaching staff, PN and John Mattos, CO were also nominees.

Convention Education Committee, Judy L'Roy. Judy introduced her committee members from Western Zone; Athlete Representative, Kekoa Tapurra and members Todd Stoddard, CO; Pat Risser, SN; Linda Conger, SR; and staff liaison Kim O'Shea. The committee had seven workshops at convention this year. They always welcome input from others.

Championship Meet Evaluation, Stan Benson. Evaluations have changed from handout sheets to personal interviews which are being continually revised to make them more relevant to the position. The Committee appreciates all the help that is given to them when needed.

Scholastic All-American Subcommittee, Joyce Lanphere. This has been a fantastic year for Scholastic All-American and especially in the Western Zone. Out of 1486 (70% have a 4.0 gpa) successful applicants, Western Zone had the highest representation with 244 women and 173 men applicants. The two highest LSCs were Pacific and Southern California with 100 applicants each. Overall, 119 women and 81 men were three timers, Two years ago there was a strong impetus from coaches, and the times Recognition Committee went to a standard format with a junior national championship level performance which was quite a bit faster than previously. Even so, the applicant numbers are still increasing. A minimum 3.5 gpa is also required.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2010 Western Zone Championship Meet. Danica Burge of West Coast Aquatics distributed to each LSC a packet of information on transportation, hotels, etc. for the 2010 Championship Meet. Additional information will be sent out and posted on their website, and there will be a link from the Western Zone website.

Senior Meet. Hawaii was thanked for hosting the 2009 meet. We were one of two zones that hosted the new Senior Zone Championship. It was a modified meet because of the low numbers, but we want to improve it and give it a chance. A nine person task force will be appointed to study this meet. They will be charged with coming up with and crafting a framework to better serve the athletes in that age group within our zone and also allow it to be a successful meet for whomever is hosting it. Hopefully we can move kids better through the system and keep them in the system. They will discuss the meet date, format (probably 3 day), fees, time standards, etc. The task force will be comprised of two coaches and one athlete from each section, whoever will be hosting the meet, a meet management consultant and one of the Zone Directors who will be the chair. January 15, 2010 will be the target date for reporting back to the membership. There will be several phone conferences and a face-to-face at the National Championship in Federal Way in December. We want to make sure that this meet is well crafted and well thought out.

M/S/P Motion to release up to \$2000 for incidental expenses incurred by the Task Force.

BIDS/ELECTIONS

2011 Age Group Championship: Mesa Aquatics Club, Kino Aquatic Center, Mesa, AZ
Sierra Nevada Swimming, Summer Sanders Pool, Roseville, CA
Clovis Swim Club; Clovis North Pool, Clovis CA

M/S/P Motion to close bids for the 2011 age group meet.

2010 Senior Championship: **M/S/P** Motion that the task force being formed serve as a site selection committee for the 2010.

Nominations for officers: Junior Zone Director (non coach)	Robert Broyles, John Lorimer, Duncan Scott
Championship Coordinator:	Linda Eaton, Jon Hayashida, Darwin Takaki
Secretary/Treasurer	Marilyn Loitz

The meeting was recessed at 9:00 p.m. and called back to order by Larry Johnson at 3:40 p.m. on Friday, September 18.

Brandon thanked Larry Johnson and Don Brown for their four years of service on the Western Zone Board.

Cecil Gordon, Diversity Committee Chair, and John Cruzat, Diversity Staff Liaison, were introduced. Cecil spoke about the Diversity Workshop being held in Colorado Springs, November 12-15, 2009, and urged each LSC to send someone.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

M/S/P Motion that the 2011 Age Group Meet format be confirmed at the 2010 convention. (All of the bidders have agreed to this.)

2010 Senior Meet. Brandon reported that the task force is being assembled and that there is a lot of interest. The meet date will be between August 5 and 8 which would allow swimmers to enter Junior Nationals. There are several willing hosts for the meet, the time standards will be the AA 15-16 for age groups and it will be a 3 ½ day championship format. The task force will come up with all of the additional meet details by January 15, 2010. The size of the task force is limited, but the names of all who are interested are needed so that their input can be utilized.

NEW BUSINESS

M/S/P Motion to adopt the 2010 Budget as proposed. (Attachment 1)

Regional Coaches Clinics, Bill Krumm. A new program which is being run through club development is regional coaches clinics. They are trying to get into areas that normally don't get coaches clinics. The first one was held on Oahu, HI, for 56 coaches. Hawaiian Swimming helped by paying registration and bringing coaches in from the other islands. A clinic was held in Snake River in the spring and thanks go to the LSC (Linda Conger and John Apgar) for coordinating the locations and supporting the social. Fifty-six coaches attended. They will try to run two clinics in each zone each year. This fall one will be held October 16-18 in Albuquerque, NM and in the spring over two weekends in Alaska. A host is being sought for the fall of 2010. For the spring of 2011 a tentative agreement has been reached with Utah Swimming. The fee structure is \$50 for one coach from a club or \$100 for entire club coaching staff.

Club Recognition and Excellence Programs, Bill Krumm. Seventy-four clubs have completed some level of the Club Recognition program. For the first time Western Zone has three Level 4 clubs. Fifty-three clubs are currently trying to get Level 1. In the Club Excellence program, there were 20 bronze medal clubs, 20 silver medal clubs and 8 gold medal clubs.

From the long course season, Western Zone had 8 of the top 25 teams; 14 members on the National Youth Cup Team, 11 members on the World University Games Team; 10 on FINA World Championship Team. Currently, Western Zone has 33 members on the National Youth (Junior) Team and 27 members on the National Team.

Bill is looking for a site for the Western Zone Select Camp to be held around Memorial Day weekend. He would like a university style setting.

BIDS/ELECTIONS

2011 Age Group Championship awarded to: Clovis Swim Club; Clovis North Pool, Clovis CA

There were no additional nominations from the floor. For each position it was **M/S/P** that nominations be closed.

Elected were: Junior Zone Director (non-coach)	Robert Broyles
Championship Coordinator	Jon Hayashida
Secretary/Treasurer	Marilyn Loitz

M/S/P Motion to destroy the ballots.

M/S/P Motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Loitz, Secretary