Report from USAS Convention 2015

From Clint and Laurie Benton

I am not good at writing a detailed report since most of the information will be made available through other communications. However to demonstrate our activities at convention I have included here my notes from our activities each day and some of my notes from the meetings I attended.

We arrived at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown about 9:30 PM on Saturday September 26, 2015.

On Sunday September 26, 2015, we checked out the hotel's where the meetings were going to be held we also checked in with the USAS Convention Committee to arrange for the USA Swimming Check in. Then we worked with USAS to prepare handouts for the banquet and the handout for the people who checked in at the convention. We assembled 900 banquet planner gifts and 1400 convention bags.

On Monday September 27, 2015, we started the preparation of the USA Swimming check in and started to meet with the early arrivers at the hotel. Did the final preparations for the USA Swimming Registration area.

On Tuesday September 28, 2015, USA Swimming Registration opened. There seemed to be a large number of registrations for the first day.

On Wednesday September 29, 2015, registration began at 7:00 AM. Meetings started at 8:00. Review of vendor’s area. Facilities Management will be included at the NorCal Clinic January 7-8, 2016 in Napa. Anyone interested in learning more about Facilities Management should send a representative.

Laurie continued to supervise the USA Swimming Convention registration process, until the beginning of the House of Delegates meeting on Saturday morning.

LSC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, September30, 2015.

DGI consultants selected for the Zone LSC study made a presentation.

1. Conduct interviews
2. Telephone interviews
3. Surveys

Will present what we are doing and help us determine what we must do, not what we are doing.

Agreed to 18 months or less to have a report.

LEAP status report. Level 2 has an incentive a bonus and an amount per swimmer.

LSC Governance has on-line courses. Each LSC has 18 months to complete certification.

LEAP library, on-line to help LSC do certification in drop box.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:

Presentation by the Design Group International, who are doing the LSC/Zone

Governance study. Technical change verses Adaptive change. Technical change is fixing something that we know is broken and there is a way to fix it. They are going to be involved in the Adaptive change which is first to identify the problems then present the issues and determining what needs to be fixed and how. The focus is on the Zones and the LSC's, with a focus on the athlete. They will use surveys focus groups and interviews. This is to identify what needs to be done and also what someone is willing to take and move forward. Survey will be about 9 to 10 questions. Survey will be on the USA Swimming Web site.

Approval minutes, m/s/p

Legislation before the Rules and Regulations Committee: R&R agreed to send the proposals forward without a recommendation.

Planning for next year, continue the definition of Role of Governance Committee.

Move to close the business meeting, m/s/p

Open forum: No new items from the group for us to work on.

Western Zone LSC General Chair’s Meeting:

Review of Senior Zone Meet Clovis: 1100 swimmers, fewer splashes but meet seemed to be well received. Was a combined Club and LSC All Star meet. No bidders for 2017 yet, need to be able to handle up to 1400 swimmers.

Meeting tomorrow meeting will start as a combined meeting then break into three tracks, swimmers, coaches, and officials.

Age Group Zone meet, 600+ swimmers more swims. Every LSC represented. Points were evenly spread between LSC's. Had 83 officials. For the Open water 205 swimmers.

The on-line registration will be done for 2017 year. The week end of April 21-22-23-24, 2016, will be in Denver for Registration and Times person. Is also recommending that General Chairs also attend. Also will have Safe Sport Person also needs to be there.

Three Sectional Meets, California Meet will be in December in East LA and will be Short Course. Then two long course meets in the summer one at Mt Hood the other Roseville.

Futures meets next year will have 4 meets, one will be in California.

Age Group Zone Meet 2016 will be in Salt Lake City. They are going to create an Olympic Village for the athletes they want to give the swimmers the atmosphere of the Olympics.

Zone Boards of Review and Zone Appeal Process, Jeff Gudman. Have had five requests for ZBOR, three choices: goes to Nationals, not worthy of a ZBOR, and hearing was held. If ZBOR is turned down the filing fee is returned. General Chair needs to turn three names in for next year for ZBOR.

Swimming Analytics:

1. Membership

2. Improvement in times of swims

3. Parent evolvement

4. Increase in clubs

Measure success:

Club measures Success:

First list what you believe is success then figure what or how you can measure it.

Club portal needs a password, the LSC Registration and the Head Coach has the password.

LSC Portal is open to everyone.

ZONE BOR WORKSHOP:

Each of Zone's BOR's have had about 5-6 cases so far, each ZBOR has a filing fee. The process of the ZBOR is about the same as the old LSCBOR.

Hearings: must be open, fair and transparent. No private hearings all must be involved in the same hearing. All hearings must be recorded and a report must be made of the findings and why. The panel must include an athlete or the hearing cannot be conducted. Make sure that there is not appearance of a conflict for hearing people.

Handling Safe Sport Complaints Workshop:

What should happen if there is a complaint?

Rely on club policies

○ Open and direct communication

○ Monitor progress

• Club Responsibility

○ Awareness of what is going on

○ Communicate your plan

○ Use your plan

What did we do?

How effective was it?

What could you have done differently?

Do we need to change your plan?

○ Evaluate your plan

○ Don't do anything without everyone being a part of the plan

• Make a plan

○ Athlete Code of Conduct

○ Locker room Monitoring Policy

○ Grievance Procedure

• What do I need to do?

WESTERN ZONE BUSINESS MEETINGS:

At the convention this year, Western Zone had three meetings. The first meeting was a LSC General Chairs meeting. I attended this meeting with David Benjamin, as an orientation meeting for David. The meeting ended up being a review of the upcoming meetings to see if there were any additional items to be added for those meetings. It was also an attempt to find out what teams would be bidding for the Age Group and Senior Championship meets.

At the first business meeting for Western Zone no roll call was taken or registration of voting members. Therefore after half the meeting was completed it was brought to the attention of the Directors that all of the actions that had been voted on were out of order and not acceptable votes, therefore everything was continued to the final meeting on Friday night.

At the meeting on Friday, the Zone selected Clovis as the host for the Senior

Championship and Roseville for the Age Group Championship in 2017.

David Coddington was elected again as the Non-Coach Zone Director for a second term.

The Zone also voted that the Chair of the Zone Board of Review will be appointed by the Zone Directors. Actions that still need to be made are incorporating the Zone Board of Review and Zone Appeals Board into the Zone by-laws.

HOD MEETINGS:

At the Friday night session there was a memorial service for those who are no longer with us since last year, Brian Malick was included and remembered.

Many awards were also presented including the LSC awarded Life Memberships, Mary Ruddell, was recognized as the Pacific Swimming recipient.

During the HOD on Saturday, Chuck Weigus, gave his report on the state of the sport, which continues to be very good.

The 2016 Budget which is also the final year of the quadrennial budget was approved.

Several items of legislation were passed. The one about employees of the LSC or Zone not being able to be elected to the Board of Directors was defeated. Approved was a motion to have LSC's receive 5 votes in the Zones with one vote being by an athlete.

Additionally it was passed that when the primary time is not accepted then the back-up time was used with not timing adjustment.

This concludes my report for the USAS 2015 Convention, I would be happy to discuss any issues or items with anyone.

Thank you